

Excursions
THROUGH
THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK;

Comprising descriptions of the
RESIDENCES OF THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY,
Remains of Antiquity,
AND EVERY OTHER INTERESTING OBJECT OF CURIOSITY.

Illustrated with
One Hundred Engravings.



J. Greig, Upper

ORME, AND BROWN;
2, Witham and Maldon, Essex.

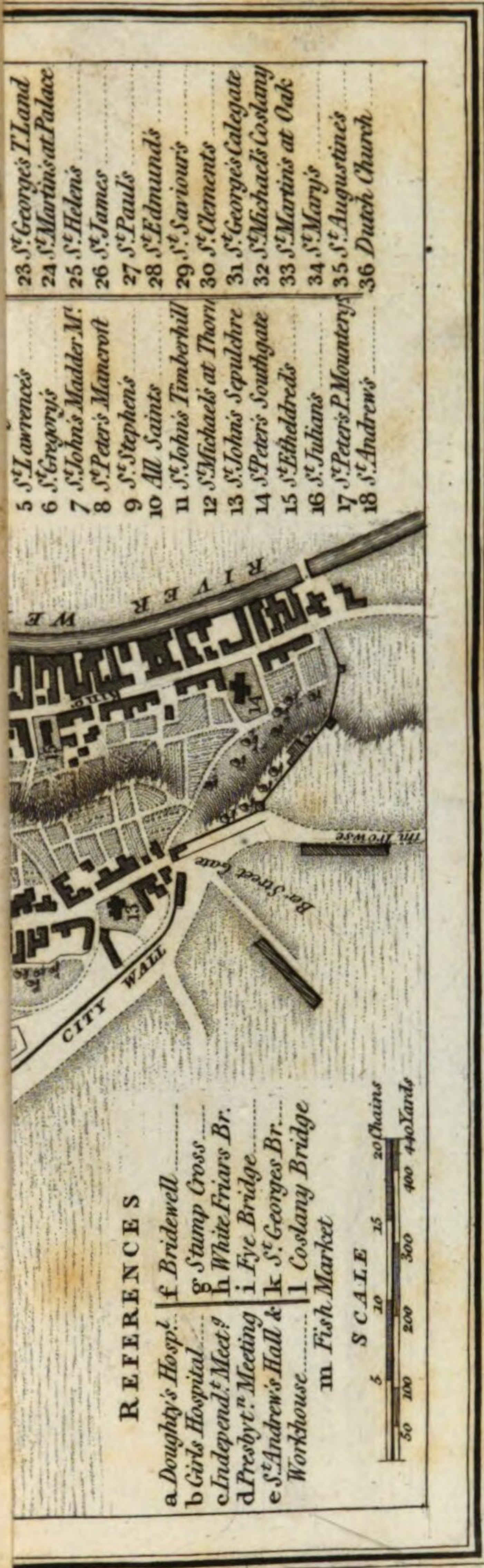
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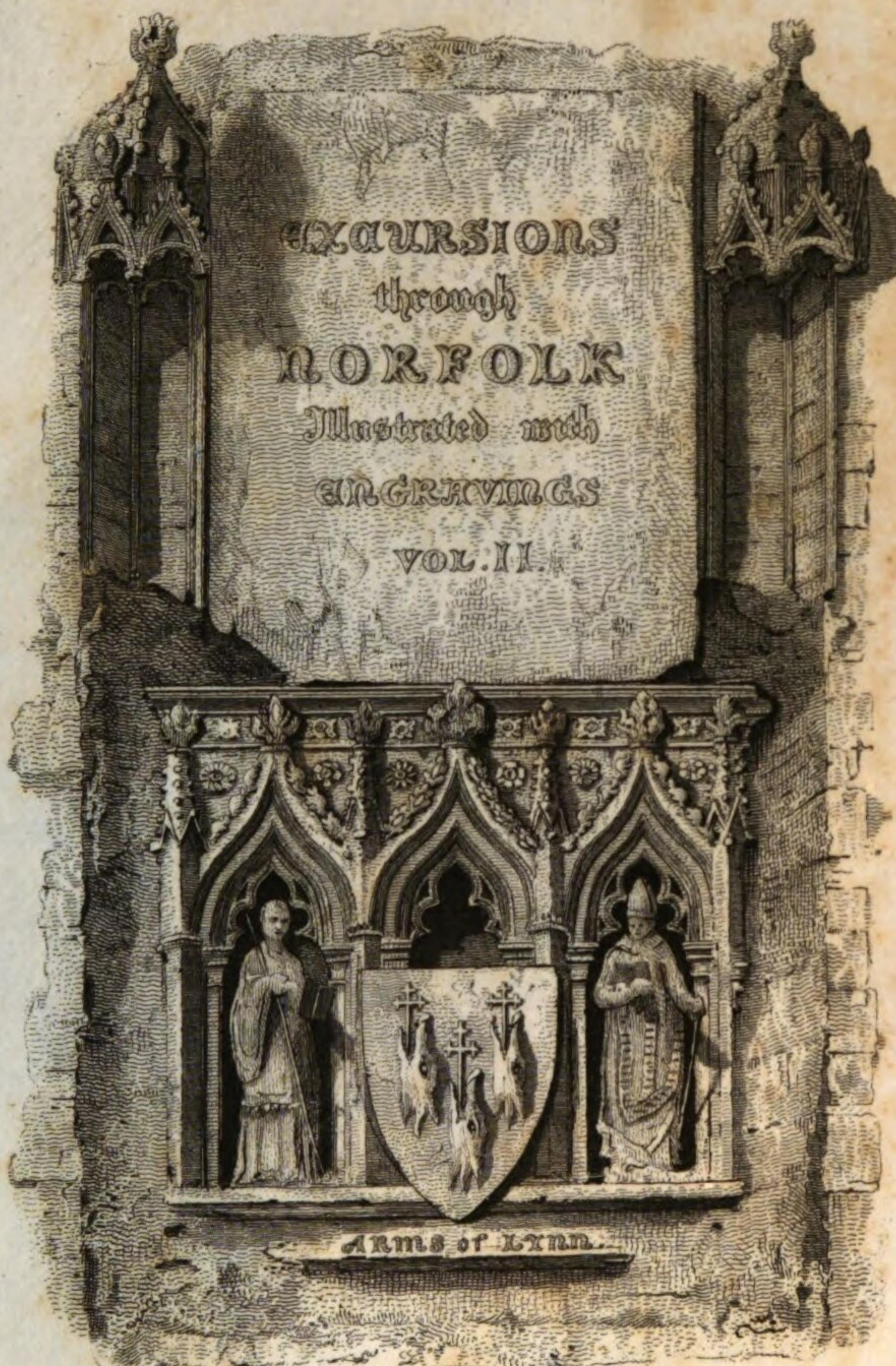
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EXCURSIONS
through
NORFOLK
Illustrated with
ENGRAVINGS
VOL. II.

ARMS OF LXXX.

Drawn by J. S. Cotton.

Engraved by J. Greig.

London: Published May 12 1819, by Messrs Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

EXCURSIONS
IN THE
COUNTY OF NORFOLK:

COMPRISING A BRIEF
HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DELINEATION OF
EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE;

TOGETHER WITH
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RESIDENCES OF THE
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Remains of Antiquity,
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FORMING A COMPLETE GUIDE
FOR THE
TRAVELLER AND TOURIST.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ONE HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS, INCLUDING
A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN:
J. GREIG, UPPER-STREET, ISLINGTON;
AND P. YOUNGMAN, WITHAM, AND MALDON, ESSEX.

1819.

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1819

PREFACE.

IN completing the Excursions through this county, an obligation, next to the acknowledgment of the assistance which the Editor has received from the resident gentlemen and antiquaries, is the congratulation due to the spirit of amelioration which has evidently made advances unprecedented in former times, not only in architecture, but in agriculture and other arts, which concern the comforts and conveniences of life. By a singular coincidence, these pursuits are happily united in some of the proprietors of those princely residences that distinguish the county of Norfolk.

Next to the acknowledged improvements in agriculture, it seems an observation, stating that "Norfolk is one of the counties where the greatest deficiency of water carriage exists," will not long be founded: fortunately the proprietary near Diss have announced the intention of making their river navigable, which, in connexion with similar improvements in the two neighbouring counties, must be highly advantageous in its results, whether the former navigation should or should not be continued from Thetford to Norwich, and from thence to Cromer, where a respectable fishery is already established, and from which the neighbouring parts of the country are supplied

down as low as Cambridge. There can be little doubt that the increase of aquatic communications will add to the fruitfulness and beauty of a soil, that, with the highly ornamented remains of Gothic grandeur, exhibits so many specimens of the more light and chaste beauties derived from the models of Greece and Rome.

London, May 1, 1819.

THE EDITOR.

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EXCURSIONS THROUGH NORFOLK.

SCULTHORP. This was the residence of Sir Robert Knollys, who became an eminent commander under Edward III., and rising from the rank of a common soldier, acquired a large property. He had a grant of White Castle and that of Fenchery in Brittany, and in the 32d of that king took Auxerre, &c. for the King of Navarre. In 1360, Constantia, his wife, went from England to Brittany, taking with her to his assistance 20 men at arms, 14 archers on horseback, &c. She had provided for him at her own expense three ships and two crays; and in 1365, John Duke of Brittany, for his services, gave him many lands. In the 44th of Edward III., he was again retained to serve the king in the French wars, two years from the nativity of John the Baptist, in 1370, with 2000 men at arms, and 2000 archers, none of the men to be raised out of Northumberland, Durham, or Westmoreland. So great was the devastation that he made, that the sharp points and gable ends of the houses, &c. that he destroyed were called *Knowles Mitres*. In the 2d of Richard II. he attended John Duke of Lancaster in his Spanish expedition, and was then a Knight of the Garter. In the 4th of Richard II. he had a grant of the manor of St. Pancras, near London; and for his good services in subduing Wat Tyler's rebellion was enfranchised a member of the city of London. Having made a vow to go to Rome, in the 13th of the same reign, he had a licence for himself and 12 persons, and a bill of exchange for what money he might want.

during his stay there. In the 3d of Henry IV., John Gerneys released to him, and Sir Hugh Brown, knt. two messuages and 34 shops in the parish of St. Mary at Hill, near Billingsgate, London, to be settled on Sir Robert's college or hospital, at Pontefract, in Yorkshire. He obtained such immense wealth in the French wars, that Richard II. pledged several of his most valuable jewels and silver vessels to him. His charity, however, was considerable. He built the bridge at Rochester over the Medway, with a chapel and chantry at the east end of it. He also erected the churches of Sculthorp and Harpley, and re-edified the conventual church of the White Friars in London. In the 4th of Richard II. he had a licence to amortise to the Carthusian priory in London 40*l.* per ann. out of the manor of Dunstall in Kent. In the 8th of that reign, licence was granted to him and Constantia his wife to found the college of Pontefract in a house of theirs. Knolles Almshouse, in Pontefract, Leland observes, was a college with an hospital joined to it: here was a master with six or seven priests and 13 poor men and women, and it was valued at 180*l.* per annum.

Sir Robert Knollys died at his manor-house in Sculthorp, at the advanced age of 92, and was buried in the body of the Carmelites church in Fleet-street, London, by his lady Constantia. Leland says this lady was of humble birth at Pontefract in Yorkshire, and that she prevailed upon her husband to found the college there, and not at Sculthorp as he intended. The church at this place is dedicated to St. Mary, or All Saints. In the chancel on a brass is inscribed

Here lyeth Syr George Brown,
Sometyme parish priest of this town.

DUNTON lies about a mile to the southward of Sculthorp. Henry II. is said to have given this town with

Doketon and Ketelston to Ralph de Hauville to be held by *petit sergeanty*, the keeping of the king's hawks or falcons. This Ralph was a knight, and had a son Sir Ralph, who, according to the custom of the age, wrote himself sometimes de Hauville, and sometimes de Dunton. Of this family were Henry and Hugh de Hauville, for whom King John, in his 6th year, ordered that all the hawks and gerfalcons which should be brought from beyond sea should be kept by the bailiffs of the several ports till the said Henry and Hugh should choose what they thought fit for the king's use, and no person was allowed to buy any till this was done.

In the chancel of the church of Dunton is this remarkable inscription.

“In memory of Matthew Lancaster of Dunton, gent. eldest son and heir of Matthew Lancaster, descended from John Lancaster the first of that race in England, and first founder of Lancaster, from whom issued 50 or more knights, esquires, and gentlemen of quality, some dignified by their honourable marriages in noble families, the rest, or most of them, in their several marriages equalizing, if not exceeding their own rank and pedigree: died ——— 1658.”

TOFTREES lies still farther southward. In the 43d of Elizabeth, one Evans of this place took the son of one Clifton in Norfolk, who was taught to sing for his recreation, by virtue of a commission to take children for the king's service in his chapel; but he being a gentleman's son, Evans for that offence was grievously punished. In this parish was a beacon. In the chancel of the church against the north wall is a marble compartment, and on the summit of this the arms of Clifton, and in an oval below it a globe with an arm over it, issuing out of the clouds, holding a lily and this motto, “*Mihi minus in Lubricum.*”—Under this

is a shield, &c. and a Latin inscription of a considerable length.

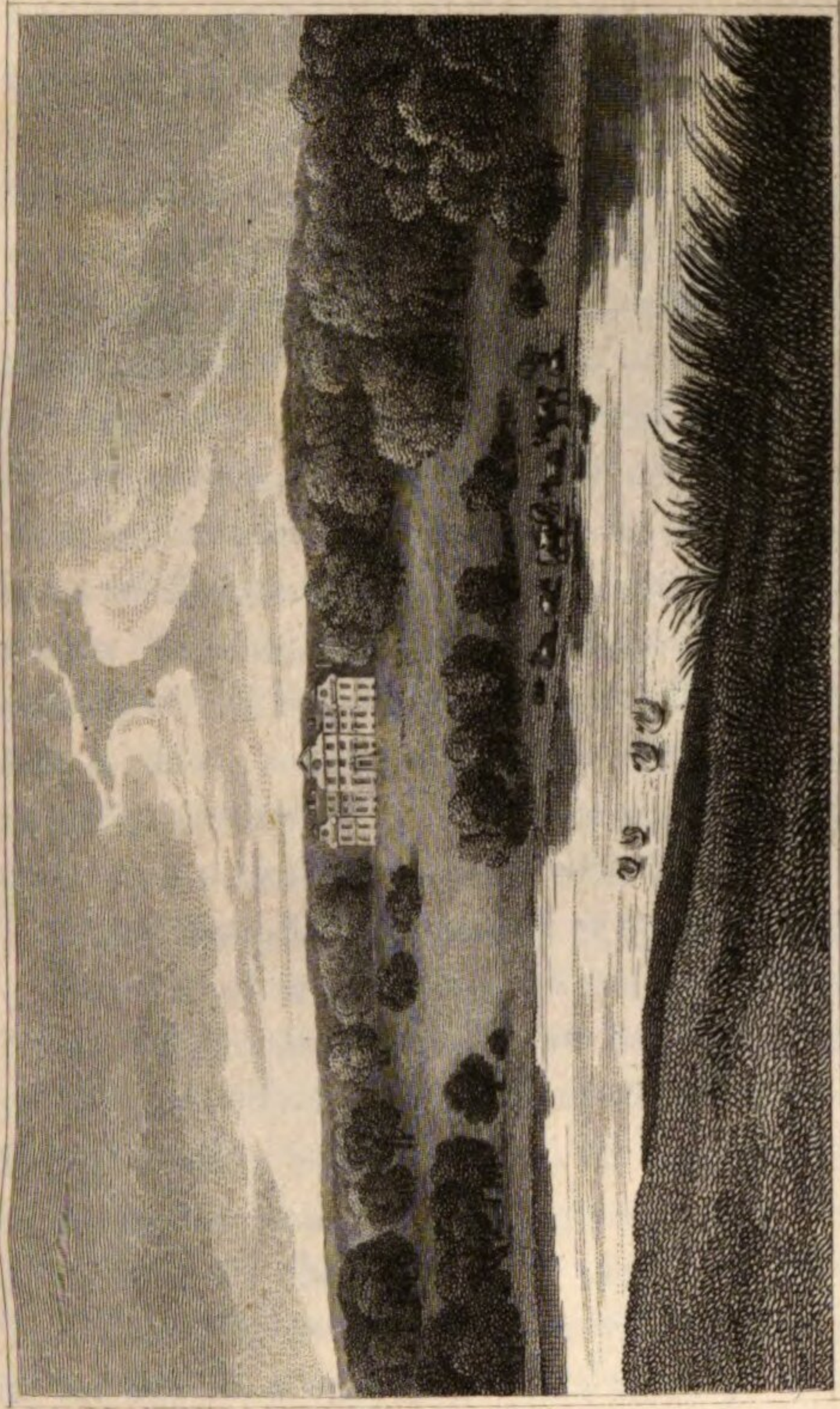
Proceeding towards the road, we pass the Rainhams.

RAINHAM EAST. In this town were three churches, of which St. Mary's was the chief. It consists of a nave with two aisles, and a chancel covered with lead. The tower is square, and contains four bells. On the south side of it is a curious large dial with a clock, erected at the charge of Lord Viscount Townshend, and on the north side of the church and chancel a dormitory, but no monuments. Against the north-east part of the chancel is a handsome tomb, but without any inscription, erected to the memory of Sir Roger Townshend, the judge, agreeably to the will of Lady Eleanore, his wife. On the windows of the south aisle are the arms of the Lords Scales, Townshend, Ingaldes-thorp, &c.

West and South Rainham have nothing to detain us.

Rainham Hall is delightfully situated by nature, and the grounds have been greatly improved by the late proprietor, the Marquis Townshend. The building is rather in the style of a good and comfortable than a magnificent habitation. It was built about the year 1630, by Sir Roger Townshend, bart. under the directions of that excellent architect, Inigo Jones. The country round it is rich, and charmingly cultivated. The park and woods, containing about 800 acres, are beautiful, and the lake below peculiarly striking. The house contains a few paintings, among which is the famous picture of Belisarius, by Salvator Rosa, a present to Charles Lord Viscount Townshend, secretary of state, from Frederic the Great, King of Prussia. Here is also a very fine portrait of Mary De Medicis, by Rubens. Some connoisseurs are of opinion that it is not the picture of Belisarius, but of Caius Marius.

WEASENHAM lies two miles to the south-east of Rain-



Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by J. Slater for the Excavations through North R.

RAINIER HALL,
The Seat of the Marquis of Townshend.
NORFOLK.

Pub. & May 12. 1819 by Longman & Co. Piccadilly Row.

ham. Here was the manor of *East Hall*, which passed through many families to the Browns, and from them to Richard Jackson, esq. lord in 1757, &c. Here is also the manor of *North Hall*, and Sir John de Wesenham, in the 23d of Edward III., being then the king's butler (*Pincerna Regis*) had a grant or licence to take 12*d.* of every hogshead, and 2*s.* of every pipe of wine imported into England by merchant strangers. As Sir John was likewise a rich merchant of London, he had about this time the king's crown in pawn; and in the 34th of that reign he was in commission with Sir Robert de Causton, to seize all ships from the mouth of the Thames northward, and to provide them with men at arms, archers, &c. to resist the French, then threatening an invasion. At the south end of the nave of the church at Weasenham, Blomefield observed over a door or entrance an old painted board, with a portrait of Henry VI. in his robes, with the arms of France and England quarterly, and *REX HENRICUS SEXTUS*, with an antelope at his feet. The church of All Saints, called South Weasenham church, has a nave, north aisle, and chancel, and a square tower; and that of St. Peter's a nave, north and south aisle, and a chancel covered with lead.

Weasenham Hall is the seat of the Rev. Fred. Hotham.

ROUGHAM is about a mile and a half from Weasenham. This manor was, for several ages, in the family of the Yelvertons; but passing through the Peytons to Roger North, esq. sixth son of Dudley, Lord North, in 1690, he made great improvements in *Rougham Hall* and in the lands, by planting and enclosing. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. At the west end of the steeple a broken crucifix of stone seems to have been well executed. On a gravestone at the east end of the chancel are the effigies of a man between his two wives: under the first, on his right hand, are the portraits of ten children in brass; and under the other

six: the plate containing the epitaph is torn off, but by the arms it appears to have been in memory of William Yelverton, esq. and his two wives, Anne, daughter of Farmer, and Jane, daughter of Crocket. Upon another stone, with the arms of Bladwell, is the following.

“Here lies interred Sir John Bladwell, the eldest son of William Bladwell, of Swanington, esq., of that ancient family: he was a loyal subject, a faithful friend, a good neighbour, truly just, and wisely charitable; he loved the church and her well composed Liturgy, and was a constant receiver of holy communion; he endowed the vicarage of this town with a good house and some land adjoining to it: he left this world the 14th of October, in the year of his age 64, and of our Lord 1680.”

The chancel of this church has a north aisle; and it appears that formerly there was another: on the south side is a library built by a Mr. North, and furnished with books by him and other well disposed persons. At a distance from the church to the south was an old chapel, since called the Chapel Barn. At the west end of the former is a square steeple with two bells; on one

“Missus de Coelis habeo nomen Gabrielis.”

Rougham Hall is the seat of F. North, esq.

Having rejoined the high road, we pass along Pedlar's Way; and on our left observe Geyton Thorpe and Westacre.

GEYTON THORPE. The church here is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a single ancient pile covered with lead. At the west end is a round tower containing two bells, covered with a kind of cap. Here are no inscriptions very remarkable.

WEST ACRE. Here was a celebrated priory founded by Ralph de Tony about the year 1200, and dedicated



Engraved by W. Wallis from a Drawing by J. S. Gorman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Remains of the Gateway.
WEST ACRE ABBEY,
NORFOLK.

Pub^d Oct^r. 1. 1813 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

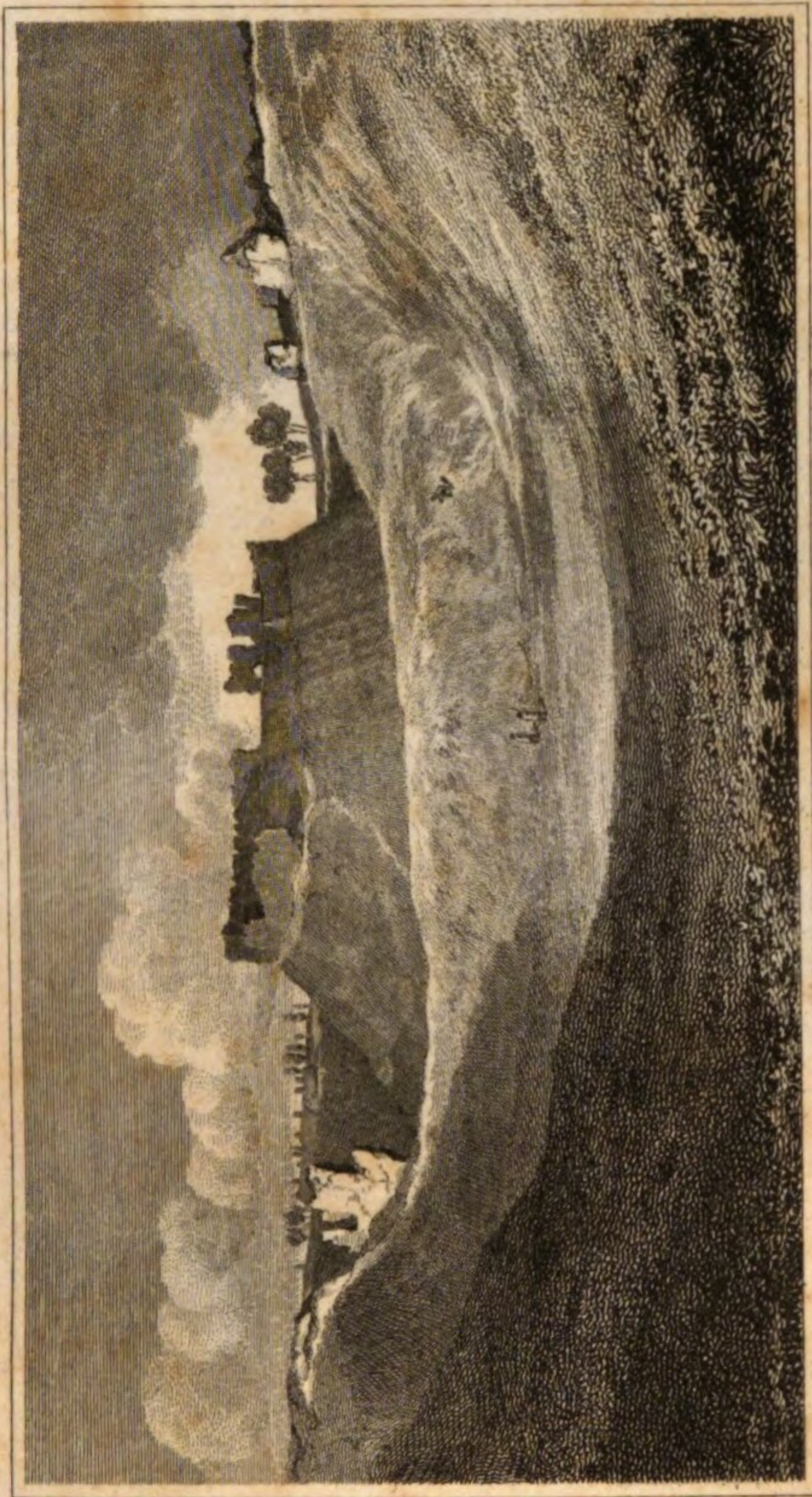
to St. Mary and All Saints; and by the consent of his wife and sons, Roger and Ralph, they granted for their own souls and their ancestors, the manor of Westacre with the parish church to Oliver the priest, or rector of it, and Walter his son. On this grant, Oliver and Walter, the sons of the priest, entered into the order of Cluniacs in this priory, with all their effects. Not only priests, it seems, but even bishops, were in this age married. The popes Boniface I. and Fœlix III. were sons of priests. King Edward IV., in his nineteenth year, granted this convent an annual fair in July, being what was then called the feast or translation of St. Thomas the martyr. William Wingfield was the last prior, and with fifteen monks of this priory subscribed to the king's supremacy on the 31st of August, 1534. On the 14th of January, in the 29th of Henry VIII., he surrendered this priory to the king with eight of his monks, and in return were pensioned for life. The prior's pension was 40*l.* per annum, a considerable sum in those days. Wingfield the prior, and several of the monks, are said to have acknowledged to the king's visitors that they had been guilty of the most flagrant acts of incontinency: the former, however, afterwards became a married priest, and was rector of Burnham Thorpe in Norfolk, in the reign of Edward VI. The convent boasted that they had a piece of St. Andrew's finger set in silver, which they had pawned for 40*l.*, but the visitors did not think fit to redeem it at that price. According to Dugdale, their annual revenues amounted at the time of the dissolution to 260*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*; but Speed makes them amount to 308*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*

The seal of this priory was large and of an oblong circular form of black wax, with a curious impress, containing under an arch the effigies of the Virgin Mary with the child Jesus in her left hand, seated, and treading on the dragon. On each side of the arch

stands one of the religious in a praying position; on the summit of the arch is the representation of the Trinity, a dove, &c. The priory church stood a little to the eastward of what is now a farm-house, and was a large pile, built in a cathedral or conventual manner. Only part of the tower at the west end of the south aisle is now remaining. The cloister joined to this south aisle; and there was a door leading into the west end of this aisle, and another out of it into the church by the great tower that stood between the church and the choir. On the east side of the cloister was a way into the chapter-house, the north and south walls of which, and a part of the dormitory, are yet standing, as well as the gate-house leading out of the town into the outward court or site of the priory. The centre of the arch of this gate bears three shields carved on stone, with quarterings of the arms of Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, Robert Lord Tony, &c.

The church of Westacre, dedicated to All Saints, is built mostly of flint-stones, and embattled. On the tower are the arms of Sir Edward Barkham, the first baronet of that name, who repaired and ornamented it. He built a large manor-house or hall in this parish; but after this became ruinous, Edward Spilman, esq. erected a more handsome and stately pile near the site of the old hall. Sir Edward also put up several seats of oak in the church, with a pulpit and reading desk; he likewise enclosed the communion-table.

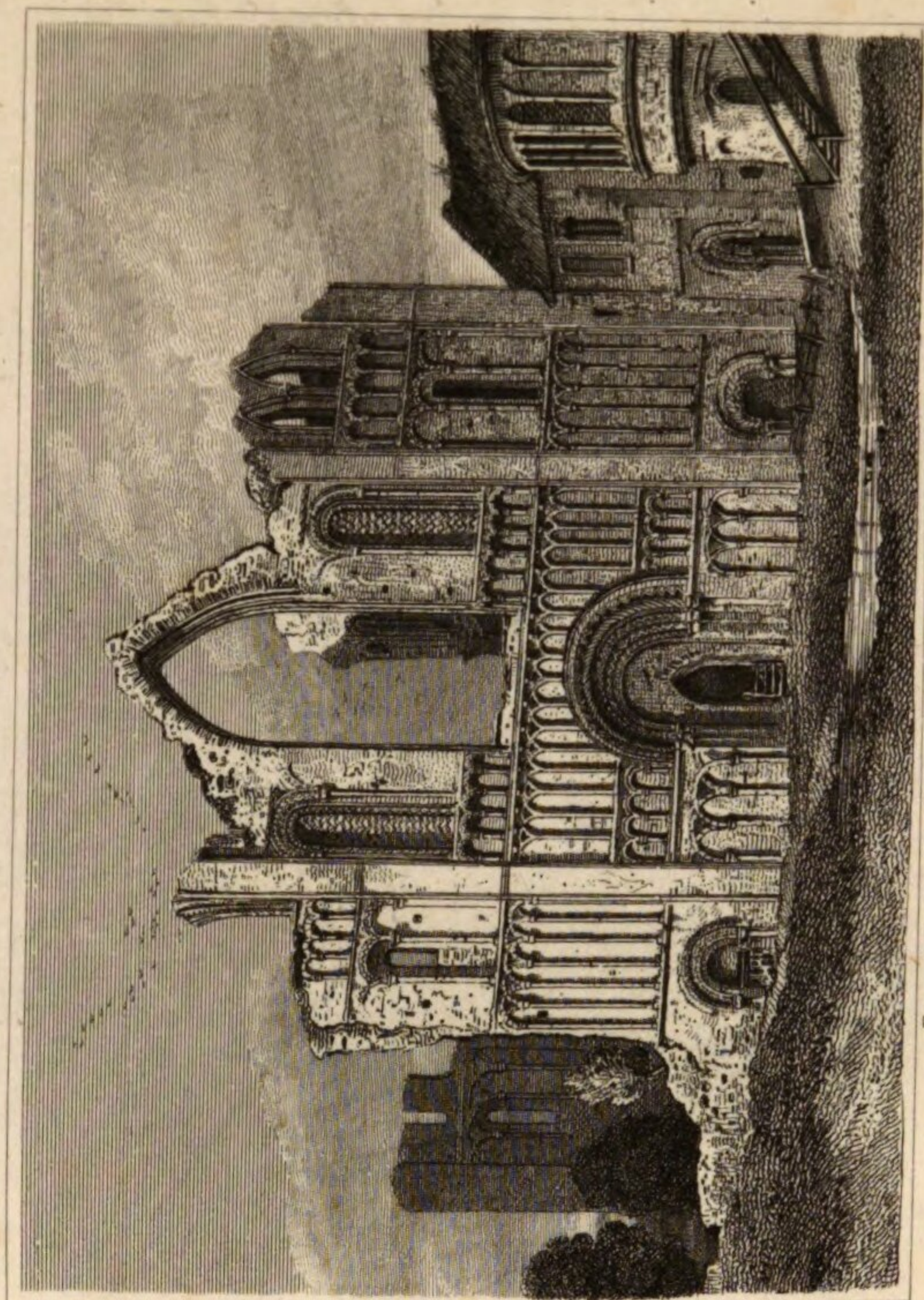
CASTLE ACRE lies about two miles to our left. This manor, at the Conquest, was bestowed, with a hundred and thirty-nine others, upon the great Earl Warren, who is stated to have erected, upon the site of older works, a circular castle. The whole fortifications comprised about eighteen acres of ground, surrounded by an embattled wall seven feet thick. This castle occupied the southern side of a gently sloping hill, and consisted of three parts or divisions, all connected; but



Engraved by J. Nichol, from a Drawing by J. S. Compton, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Remains of
CASTLE ACRE, CASTLE,
NORFOLK.

Pub. 4 Feb. 1849, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by J. S. Colman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

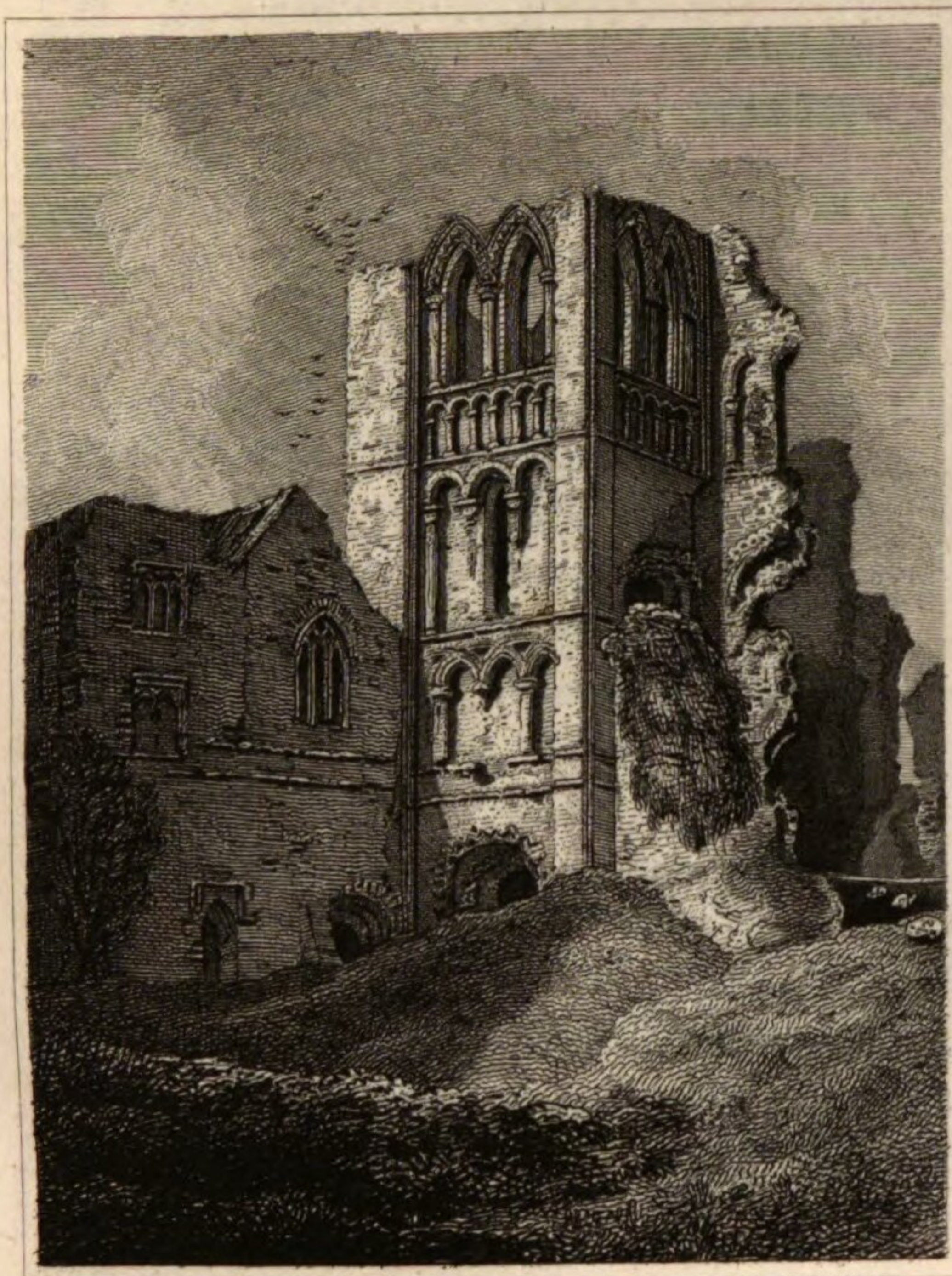
**Remains of
CASTLE ACRE PRIORY,
NORFOLK.**

Pubd 4 Oct. 1813, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

each separately provided with valla, ditches, and walls. The earth works are still very bold, and large masses of the walls remain. At the north-west angle was a lofty keep, nearly circular, with a steep glacis, and its summit was crowned with a wall of great thickness and strength. A large oblong area, surrounded by a lofty bank and deep ditches, branches from this. To the east was an entrance guarded by projecting bastions; and to the west a very large area, or outer balium, containing ten acres, also encompassed with deep ditches, intrenchments, and high ramparts. Through the whole there is a way or street now called the *Bayly-street*, with houses on each side, running directly north and south. At the entrance of this street, on the north, stood a stone gate-house with two round bastions; this had an outward and inward door with a portcullis in the middle; and Blomefield conjectures that there was a similar one at the south end of the street next to Swaffham, at least so it appeared from marks remaining when he wrote. Near the north gate, on the east side of the street, was a chapel for the castle, the walls of which were converted into a dwelling-house. About the middle of the street, on the same side, was a strong stone gate-house leading into the outward court of the great castle, which was circular, enclosed with a strong and lofty wall of free-stone, flint, &c. embattled seven feet thick. The remains reach nearly to the river, where under the outward wall is a terrace walk, and a pleasant and agreeable prospect over the country. The other parts of the fortifications lying on the west side of Bayly-street are called the Barbican, and contain above ten acres of land, which have been enclosed by ramparts, &c. This castle appears to have been preferred as a place of residence by the founder to all honours and lordships in the county: his other lordships were dependent on it. Edward I. was entertained here by Earl Warren in

January 1297. From the north part of the present entrenchments a way passes Castle Acre, Wicker, and thence leaving Massingham and Houghton on the right, and Anmer on the left : this is commonly called the Pedlar's Way. Between Houghton and Anmer many tumuli are observed. Here are considerable remains of a priory, as well as the castle before noticed as the favourite residence of the great Earl Warren. From the foundations of the ruined walls which enclosed the buildings of this monastery, the site is estimated at twenty-nine acres, two roods, and ten perches. The remains of the priory, with its conventual church, form one of the finest and most venerable ruins in the county.

The site of the priory church lies west of the castle. This church was a venerable large Gothic pile of freestone, flint, &c., and was built in a cathedral or conventual manner : great part of the west front remains. Here was the principal entrance through a great arch, over which was a stately window ; on each side of the great door were doors to enter into the north and south aisles under the tower, the grand door serving as an entrance into the nave or body ; at the north and south ends of this front stood two towers supported by strong arches and pillars ; the nave or body had twelve great pillars, making seven arches on each side, the lowest joining to the towers ; on the east end of the nave stood the grand tower supported by four great pillars, through which was the entrance into the choir ; on the north and south sides of this tower were two cross aisles or transepts ; and at the end of the north transept there seems to have been a chapel or vestuary ; the choir was of equal breadth with the nave and aisles, but much shorter ; the east end of this was in the form of a chapel, and here the high altar was supposed to stand. The cloister was on the south side of the church, and had an entrance at the west end of the



Engraved by E. Roberts from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Part of
CASTLE ACRE PRIORY.
NORFOLK.

Pub^d July 1, 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

south aisle near the tower, and another at the east end of the same aisle near the grand tower; the chapter-house seems to have joined to the east end of the cloister, and the dormitory to have been over the west part of the cloister. West of the cloister and adjoining was the prior's apartment, now converted into a farm-house; and some large columns of the nave, the walls of the transepts, and very considerable remnants of the domestic apartments, to the south of the church, still serve to show the extent of the whole. The dimensions of the cloisters, the refectory, the great hall, and many other rooms, may be ascertained. At some distance from the north-west angle of the church is the porter's lodge. The parish church of Castle Acre is a large building, and displays some ancient and curious specimens of architecture, various pieces of stained glass, and a few ancient monuments.

In a large room above stairs in the farm-house, called now the prior's dining-room, is a curious bow window of stone, consisting of nine pannels: in the first were the arms of the priory painted on the glass; in the second the arms of the Earl of Arundel and Earl Warren quartered; in the third those of Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk; in the fourth the red and white rose united, and a crown over it; in the fifth, France and England quartered; the rest contain the arms of the priory, and the letters J. W. joined together by a knot, and under it,

“*Spiritu principali confirma me,*”
by which it appears that this window was built by John Winchelsey, prior in the reign of Henry VII. or VIII. This room extended to the south tower of the church, where, at the east end of it, is a large window, as if it had belonged to a chapel, and a step or ascent to it as to an altar; and on the south wall, near to this

ascent, is an arched carved seat of stone, rising in the form of a pyramid, with the shield of the Earl of Warren alone—a proof of the antiquity of the building before the patronage of the priory came to the Earls of Arundel.

Some years ago there was, in another window, a portrait of one of the Earls of Arundel in armour, with a broad-sword in his hand; on his surcoat were the arms of Arundel, Matrevers, and Clun, and part of a legend. The site of this took in several acres: the grand entrance was north of the priory church.

From Castle Acre we pass East Walton, not any way interesting to the traveller, and join the road at

GEYTON. In the 41st of Henry III. a fine was levied between John Fitz Bernard and Adam, abbot of St. Stephen's at Caen, whereby the advowson of Geyton church was granted to the abbot. In the 43d of King John, the prior of Castle Acre conveyed by fine to the same abbot the advowson, and the latter granted to John to pay him six marks of silver per ann. at Castle Acre, with a clause of distress in the said abbot's manor of Paunfield in Essex; and that as often as the prior should send his esquire to make distress at Paunfield, the abbot should find him his horse and his boy, and pay all charges and expenses as long as they staid there about the distress, and till the esquire was paid.

The church of Geyton is a regular pile, and has a nave, a north and south aisle covered with lead, and a square tower containing three bells.

Geyton Place is the residence of A. St. John, esq.

GRIMSTONE lies about a mile and a half to the right of the road, and is remarkable for a singular tenure, called *Lovebene*, the observance of which probably ceased with the reformation; “to wit, that all residents in Grimstone having horses with a cart shall work for the Lord Benedict de Breccles for the redeeming of the common of Grimstone, one day's jour-

ney of barley seed-time, and he shall have for his breakfast one penny halfpenny; and all persons keeping cows on the common shall do a day's work in harvest, and at three o'clock they shall have flesh to eat and ale to drink, and three loaves every evening; and if they refuse, then it shall be lawful to distrain on the said common, &c. But Sir Robert de Montealto, the prior of West Acre, the Lady de Thony, the prioress of Blackburgh, the rector of Grimstone, Nicholas Costyn, Nicholas Norman, Agneys Waceneys, Sir Ralph le Botiller, Roger Skot, &c., shall not do the day's work in barley seed-time, nor the days in harvest, because their tenants work for them; nor shall any man sell the common of Grimstone to strangers without leave of the said Benedict and his heirs; and if any stranger in Congham, or any village, is willing to have common in Grimstone, he shall do the work as the others do."

Great and Little Massingham lie to the north-west.

GREAT MASSINGHAM. Harold was lord here in the time of the Confessor, and when he was slain at the battle of Hastings; and this lordship remained in the crown till Henry I. gave it to Robert, son of Ernisius, whose son, Eudo, enjoyed it; but Robert, Eudo's son, rebelling against King John, he granted it to Jefferey Fitz Peter, whence it came to the Maundevilles, &c. In the 6th of Edward I. Sir Thomas de Weyland, the judge, had the advowson of the church of St. Mary, of Massingham. Stow calls him the king's chief justice: he was in the 17th of the same reign found guilty of notorious bribery and corruption, his whole estate and goods were confiscated, and he was banished the kingdom. Stow further says, that being convicted, and fearing to yield himself to the king's mercy, he went to the Friars Minors at Babwell in Suffolk, took upon him the habit of a grey friar; but being discovered by

some of his servants, he was watched and guarded, and after two months siege, went out forsaking his friar's cowl, and was taken and sent to the Tower.

Here was *Monks*, or *Castle Acre Priory*. Among the various successive grants to this fraternity, it appears that Jefferey de Massingham and his brethren, Ivo, Adam, Philip, Thomas, &c. granted them forty acres of land here, and all testified and swore to it on the holy Gospel in the chapter-house of the monks; and every one of them (that this grant might be more confirmed) made an impression with his teeth on wax, that was placed on the chirograph instead of a seal, and for this grant the monks gave them 10s. Witnesses, Master Steph. de Burham, Yvo the presbyter.

In the town of Great Massingham there was a cell or small priory belonging to that at Castle Acre, dedicated to the Virgin and St. Nicholas, and often called the Hospital of St. Mary, founded by Nicholas le Syre, of that place. Here is still a free-school endowed with 20*l.* per annum for a master to be chosen by the rectors of Massingham Magna and Parva, and Harpley, who is to have no preferment in the church. The church is a regular building, consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel and a square tower at the west end: that of Massingham All Saints was standing in 1392. Sir Robert Sygon, of Len Bishop, priest, by his will in 1505, gave a legacy to St. John Baptist's guild at Massingham, and seven acres of land to the profits of the said town, "to pay and discharge the leyte (light) money of 3*s.* by yere, and to pay the holy brede loofe, and the money longyng every Sunday for ever, &c. Item to the commonalty of Massingham, with the croft, an acre of land and a half lying in Lenn Way, with all the appurtenances and implements thereto belonging, to make the common drinkyngs of the plow day, and odyr times at

their pleasure, so that they every yere keep myne obit, ringing a peeke for my soule, and singing a mass for ever, and do odyr good deeds."

LITTLE MASSINGHAM, it appears, was not divided from the other till after the grand survey: the part of Massingham now called Parva belonged to the lordship of Eustace, Earl of Bologne. In 1483, Henry L'Estrange, of Hunstanton, esq. appears to have been lord of it; and his third son, John L'Estrange, died seized of this lordship. By his will, dated December 16, 1516, he bequeaths his body to be buried (if he died within five miles of Massingham) before our blessed Lady in the chapel on the south side of the chancel of this church, and that a tomb be made for him, and set up there after the manner of Sir Henry Heydon's tomb at Norwich, with the arms of him, his wife, and his ancestors, a sculpture of him and his wife, and an *orate*; and if his corps lies in any other place, he wills that a plain stone with his arms and his wife's be laid over him; but that a tomb be nevertheless erected here.

To Barbara, his daughter, he bequeathed all his books of law, except the boarded books, to be given to her son, if she have the fortune to have one; his boarded books to the library of Lincoln's Inn, every one of them to have a scripture of his gift, being a fellow, twice reader, and twice treasurer of that society; and to the chapter of that house a vestment and altar cloth, price ten marks. Barbara, his daughter and heir, married Robert Mordant, esq. eldest son of William Mordant, prothonotary of the common pleas: he was descended from Sir Osbert de Mordaunt, a Norman knight. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, does not contain any object of peculiar attention.

HARPLEY lies about a mile north of Little Massingham. The church here is dedicated to St. Laurence

the Martyr. It has a nave, a north and south aisle, and a chancel, and on the pavement of this lies an old marble gravestone, which has borne the effigies of a priest, with two shields, and a rim of brass, now torn off; however, this is known to have belonged to John de Gournay, formerly rector and patron, and who died in the sixth of Edward VI. In the uppermost window but one of the north aisle was the history of St. Laurence, painted on the glass: this is apparent from some fragments, and the insignia of the saint, a grid-iron *or*. On the battlements of the south aisle are several arms, carved on the freestone, belonging to the Knowles, Lords Bardolph, Howard, Scales, and Basingbourn.

HOUGHTON, about a mile to the north of Harpley, is so called from its elevated situation. From the Cheney's this lordship passed to the Belets, from them to the Houghtons, and afterwards to the Walpoles. This ancient family took their name from the town of Walpole, in Mersland, in Norfolk. Joceline de Walpole was living at Walpole in the reign of Richard I. The church, dedicated to Saint Martin, is a regular building, having a nave, a north and south aisle, a chancel and steeple. At the west end of the nave is a monument raised about a foot from the ground, in the form of a coffin: upon the lid, or cover, which is an entire piece of grey marble, is carved a curious antique figure of a prior, or abbot, in his robes, his hands spread on his breast; above them a cross; his head is shaven; a dæmon couchant at his feet, which seems to have been done in the reign of Edward I. in memory of a prior of Coxford, but brought to Houghton after the dissolution.

In the parish of Houghton is *Houghton Hall*, the stately seat of the Right Hon. the Marquis of Cholmondeley, who inherited it from the late Horace Earl of



Engraved by Adam from a Drawing by J.S. Gorman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

HOUGHTON HALL,
The Seat of the R^t Hon.^{ble} Earl Cholmondeley
NORFOLK.

Pub. & April 1. 1829 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Orford. This mansion was begun in the year 1722, by the celebrated Sir Robert Walpole, and finished in 1735, during which time the founder continued prime minister of state. The whole structure is of freestone, having two principal fronts, ornamented at each corner with a cupola, surmounted by a lantern. The west front presents a double balustraded flight of steps, and over the entrance is an entablature supported by four Ionic columns. The wings which contain the offices are connected with the fronts by handsome balustraded colonnades. The extent of the principal front is one hundred and sixty-six feet, and including the colonnades four hundred and fifty feet. The common approach to the house is by the south end door, over which is this inscription :

Robertus Walpole,
Has Ædes
Anno S MDCCXXII.
Inchoavit,
Anno MDCCXXXV.
Perfecit.

The interior contains numerous magnificent apartments, fitted up with the greatest taste, and in the most sumptuous manner. The great hall is a cube of thirty feet, having a gallery running three quarters round it. The length of the saloon is forty feet, breadth thirty, and height forty. These with the library, dining parlour, drawing-room, parlour, two bed-chambers, with dressing-rooms, and the cabinet-room, occupy one side of the house. On the other side of the saloon is another drawing-room, called the C. Maratt room, from having been covered with pictures by that master, with bed-chambers, &c. &c. Though there are still numerous fine statues and paintings, yet whoever has formerly visited Houghton, or read a description of the once famous collection of

pictures, must deeply regret that a treasury of art, obtained at so much labour and expense, should be permitted to pass into a foreign country. This fine collection was sold to the late Empress of Russia; but previously to this, engravings were executed from the principal pictures, and published by the late Mr. Boydell. Horace Walpole first made a descriptive catalogue of the collection, and Mr. Beatniffe, in his Norfolk Tour, has preserved a list of those pictures sold to the Empress of Russia, with the prices they fetched.

This seat is surrounded with very magnificent plantations. In the road from Syderstone they appear to the most advantage: they are seen to a great extent, with openings left, in many places, to let in the view of more distant woods; which changes the shade, and gives them that solemn brownness that always produces a very great effect.

The proprietor has judiciously contrived to obviate the effect of the flatness of the country, which rather contracts than enlarges their appearance. The woods seen from the south front are so disposed as to appear one beyond another in different shades to a great extent.

About two miles from Houghton is Baythorpe, where is situated Mount Ida, the residence of Sir Henry Anne Lambert, bart.

Returning towards the road from Houghton we pass Congham.

CONGHAM. This small place gave birth to Sir Henry Spelman, the lord of this manor, who was celebrated for his knowledge of law and antiquities. He was born in the year 1564, and first studied in Trinity College, Cambridge, whence he was called to the bar, and soon distinguished himself. He was sheriff of Norfolk in the year 1605, and died in London in 1641; but his works are the most lasting

proofs of his learning, zeal and industry in the cause of science and truth.

ROYDON, or REYDON, is nearly adjoining to Congham. This was for several years held by the Wodehouses, subsequent to Edward III.; and John Wodehouse, esq. of the body guard to Henry V., famous for his gallant behaviour at the battle of Agincourt, resided here, and was constable of the castle of Rising. From a manuscript of William de Worcester, alias Botener, who lived in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV., it appears that he was in the retinue, and lived with the family of Sir John Fastolfe, knight of the garter; and further, that this John Wodehouse built here a large and most royal and beautiful manor-house, with stately offices, called *the Rey*, on the river, which cost him above 2000 marks sterling. This was situated about a mile from Rising, and here he died in 1430: but this noble edifice was pulled down to the ground by the advice and assistance of Thomas Lord Scales, in September, 1454, by the consent of the founder's heir and his particular friend. The reason assigned for this proceeding was, that Thomas Danyel, esq. pretended to have a right and title to this lordship, on account of his marrying a kinswoman of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and falsely asserting that Wodehouse, the heir to the builder of it, had given it to him. On this pretence, he had several times entered it by force with a number of the duke's men; therefore Lord Scales destroyed the house with a good intention. On the death of this nobleman and Earl Rivers, the lordship is supposed to have come again into the family of the Wodehouses, Roger Wodehouse, esq. being lord in the 36th of Henry VIII.

We now join the road near Leziate, and proceed to Gaywood: the rectory house here is the residence of Dr. Halton. From this place a road branches to the north-west, which we shall pursue in order to

notice the remaining places worthy of observation in this part of the county.

The first of these is HILLINGTON. Here is Hillington Hall, the seat of Sir M. B. Folkes, bart. one of the members for Lynn. About two miles farther is Flitcham, adjoining to which is Anmer.

ANMER. Orgar, a Saxon freeman, was the principal lord of this village before the Conquest; when being deprived of it, he was succeeded by Eustace, Earl of Bologne. Out of this arose two lordships or manors, afterwards called Bereford Manor and *Anmer Hall*. The mansion of Anmer Hall is at present the seat of James Coldham, esq. The church of Anmer is dedicated to St. Mary. In the chapel, (on the south side of the church) built by Sir Oliver Calthorp, were his arms, besides others in the windows. About four miles to the northward of Anmer is Frenge.

FRENGE. This is a little village in a valley between two considerable hills, with a rivulet running through it. Herbert, on his foundation of the priory at Norwich, in 1001, settled the lordship of Frenge on the monks towards their maintenance, with one carucate of land, which he had granted to Odo as freely as he held it himself. The preamble to the grant runs thus—“What, says the prophet, shall I give to the Lord for all the goods he has bestowed on me?” The church stands upon a rising hill, a little westward of the town, and is a single pile, with a small tower of flint at the west end, with one bell.

The next place of importance is Brancaster.

BRANCASTER, at present a large village, was anciently the military station which the Romans distinguished by the name of Branodunum. On the north it has the great German ocean, and on the south an extensive plain. The castle and encampment here occupied about eight acres of ground, but was, in Blomefield's time, a ploughed close, westward of the

church and town. The ditch is visible in many parts, and was also walled in, and the works being upon an eminence at the head of the sea marsh, commanded a very extensive prospect. The whole formed an oblong square, longer on the east and west than on the north and south, on which side runs the road to the town and to Burnham. Near this camp was erected by a merchant of Burnham an immense building for malting of barley, under the name of the *Great Malt House*. This has been much visited as one of the curiosities of Norfolk. It is a handsome building, with very convenient offices for conducting the malting process. The length is 312 feet by 31 in breadth, and during the season 420 quarters of barley have been wetted weekly. The particular purpose of the Roman garrison here, as well as upon different parts of the coasts of this and the neighbouring county, was to guard it against the incursions of the Saxons. The Dalmatian cavalry, and about 2200 foot, made up the force stationed about Branodunum, or Brancaster, by the Romans. Numerous urns, coins, &c. found here, are preserved in the cabinets of the curious; and knives and styles with handles, exquisitely wrought, about the size of clasp knives, have also been discovered.

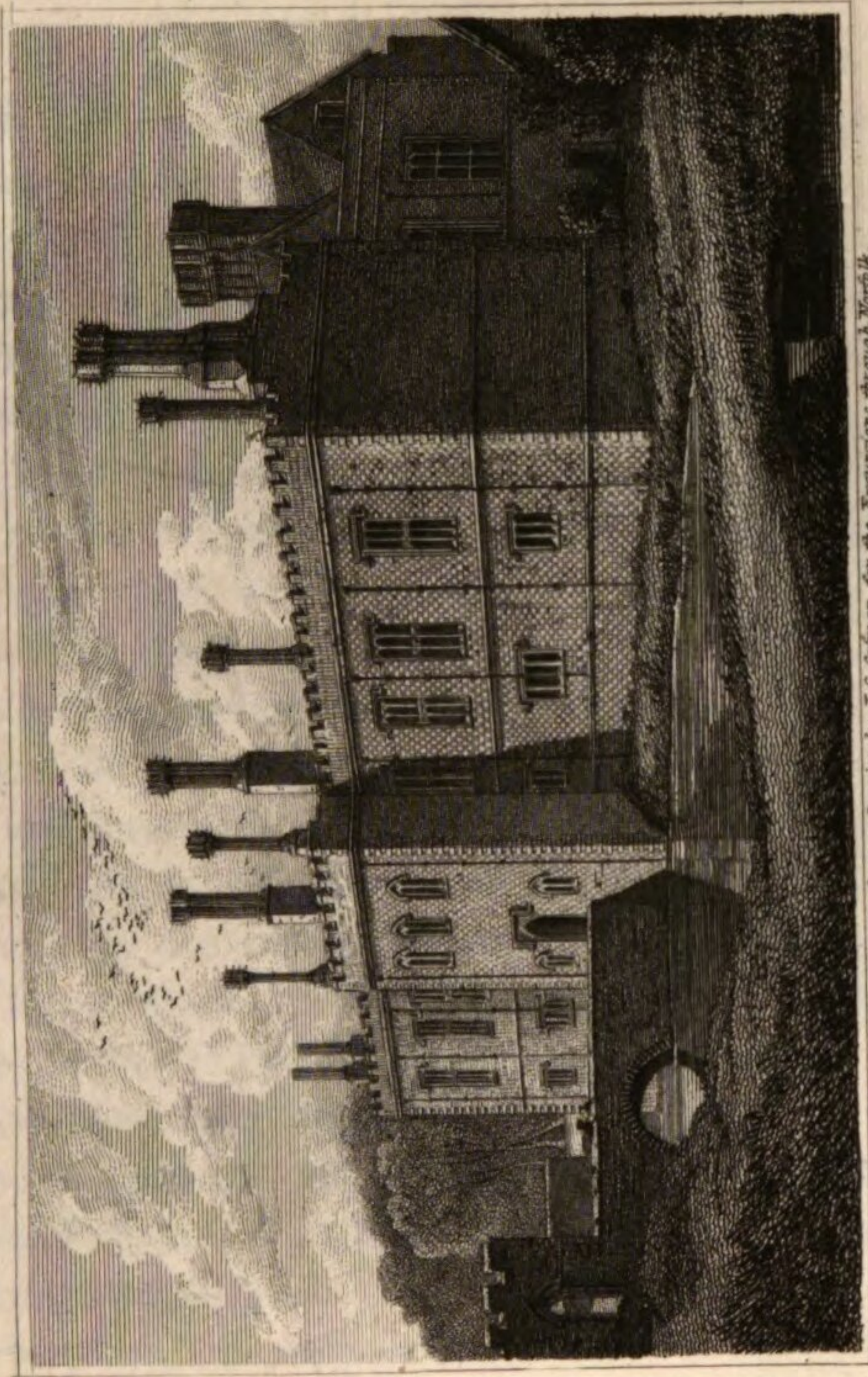
The church consists of a nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel. It has a large square tower embattled, which contains four bells and a clock. A road hence leads to Holm.

HOLM BY THE SEA. The church here, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a regular pile, having a nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel covered with lead, and a square tower at the west end of the south aisle, containing five bells. It was built by Henry de Nottingham, who was one of the council of the Duchy of Lancaster. Here were the guilds of St. Mary, St. John the Baptist, St. Thomas the Martyr, and the Holy Trinity; the plough light, the star light, West-

gate daunce, and Southgate daunce. Turning towards the road, we next observe Hunstanton.

HUNSTANTON is a village standing at the north-western point of the county, and remarkable for what is here termed an immense cliff, about one hundred feet high, called St. Edmund's Point, from a ridiculous tradition, that Edmund the Martyr landed here when he was conducted from the continent to be crowned king of East Anglia. To this it is added, that he built a tower, in which he resided till he committed to memory the whole book of Psalms, in compliance with a former vow. Some remains of an old chapel on the cliff, probably, gave rise to the story. The stratification of this cliff is worthy of notice, as furnishing specimens of the sub-strata of the part of the county to the south of it. Under the mould, about two feet deep, is a layer of white chalk, then one of hard red clunch, below that mixed stone of a dirty yellow colour, and underneath an exceedingly hard rock of an iron colour. The latter is what in a less tenacious form *grasses*, or comes to day, as miners term it, in the neighbourhood of Sandringham, in the hundred of Freebridge, Lynn, and other places, where it is usually denominated *carr stone*.

Hunstanton Hall is an ancient family mansion, built at different times; but the gate appears to have been erected in the reign of Henry VII. by Sir Roger Le Strange. Though the whole building has been long in a ruinous condition, this entrance is still deserving of notice. This mansion was in the form of an oblong square, and had a moat and a bridge. The painted windows in the hall contained many representations of the arms of the families into which the Le Stranges had married, from the time that they succeeded that of de Hunstanton. Roger de Hunstanton was living in the reign of Henry II., and had exported corn without a licence, for which he was fined.



Engraved by W. Dredge, from a drawing by J. S. Colman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**HYNSTANTON HALL,
The Residence of Henry Stylenans, Esq.
NORFOLK.**

Pub. Aug. 5, 1858, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

The church of Hunstanton, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a large regular building, with a north and south aisle, a nave, and a chancel. From the west end of the north aisle rises a strong tower. The interior contains several inscriptions to the memory of the Le Stranges, and one of these, the offspring of a punning age, is only remarkable for its poverty—

In Heaven at home, O blessed change!

Who while I was on earth was Strange.

In the centre of the chancel there is also an altar monument, on which are divers coats of the family arms, and on a fillet of brass round the margin a Latin inscription to the memory of Sir Roger Le Strange, the founder of the hall. Of this family was the celebrated political writer, Sir Roger Le Strange, who was born here December 17, 1616. On the breaking out of the civil war, he espoused the royal cause. In the year 1634, having obtained a commission, he intended to surprise the town of Lynn, then in possession of the parliament; but his plan having been divulged by two of his associates, he was seized, tried, and condemned to death, which latter punishment was commuted for imprisonment in Newgate. Escaping thence, he fled to the continent, but returned prior to the Restoration. Soon after he established a newspaper, called "*The Public Intelligencer and the News*," which was only suppressed to make room for the London Gazette, the first paper of which was published February 4, 1666. To compensate him for the stoppage of his paper, Sir Roger was made "*Licenser of the press*," an appointment at that time of some trust and emolument. He afterwards wrote the *Observator*, in defence of government; and on the accession of King James II. was honoured with knighthood. Sir Roger died December 11, 1704.

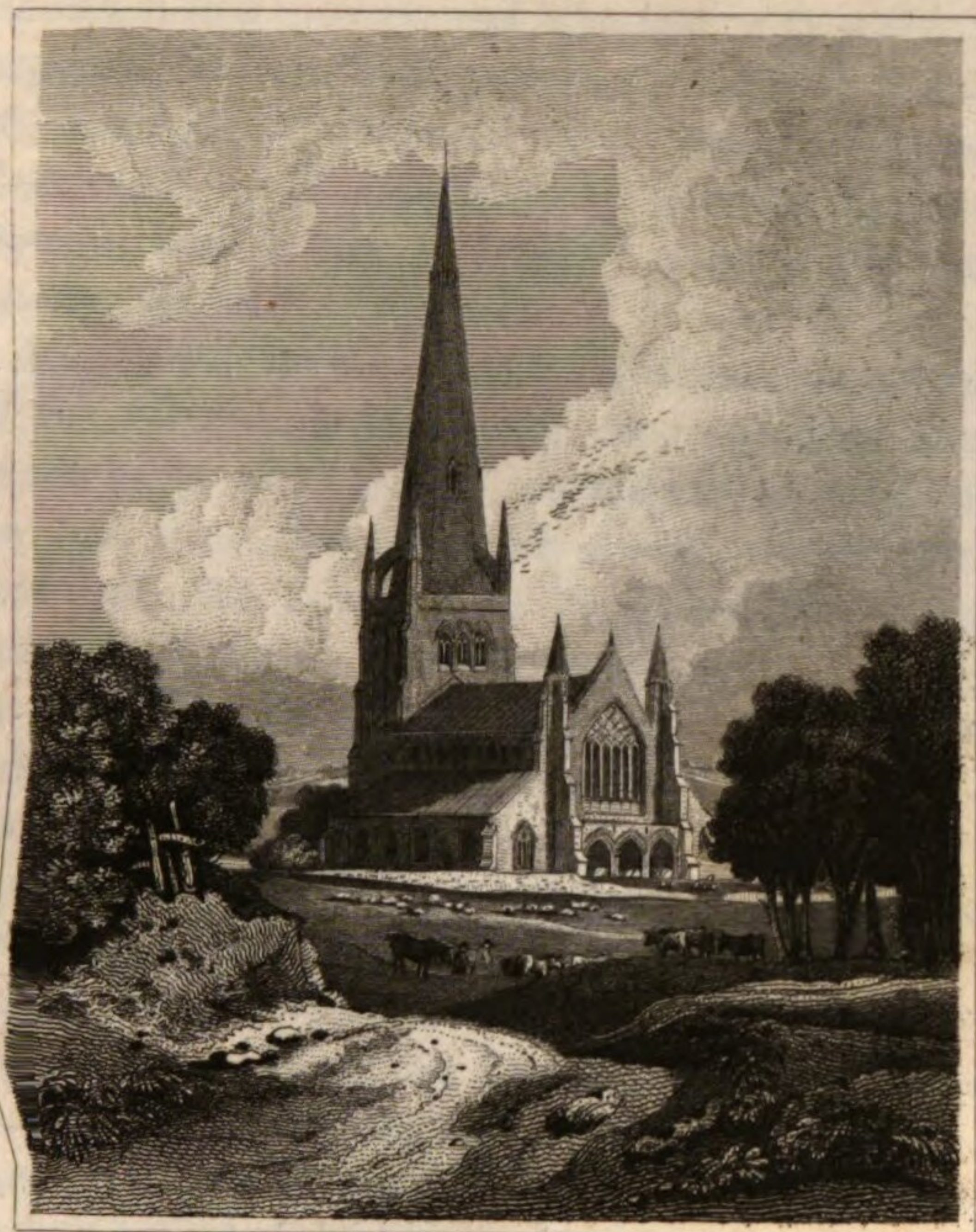
HITCHAM is the next place in our way. It is said to take its name from the river that here runs into the sea. At the survey, this was the lordship of William, Earl Warren. Caley's Hall here derived its name from William de Caley, who held lands of the Earl Warren in the reign of Henry I. The church is built cathedral-wise, has a nave, a north and south aisle, with a north and south transept, a square tower, and one bell. The priors of Lewes had a free chapel and chantry in their house or cell here, which, in 1269, they granted for life to William de London. John Martin was prior of this cell in 1514, and in 1553 an annuity of 18s. 4d. was paid him by the crown as an indemnity for its dissolution.

SNETTISHAM is a large village, about two miles south of Hitcham; was formerly a town, and had a weekly market on Fridays. At this place various brass instruments have been dug up in the shape of hatchet heads, with handles to them: these are usually called celts, but as to their uses, antiquaries are by no means agreed. Thoresby thinks they are the heads of British spears, and Hearne supposes them to have been Roman chisels.

The vicinity of Snettisham has been greatly ornamented by numerous plantations, raised by Nicholas Styleman, esq. lord of the manor, whose neat house and gardens have been much admired for the taste displayed in their disposition, and their mode of decoration.

Between this place and Ingaldesthorpe are Old Hall and Mount Amelia, the latter the residence of the Rev. W. Davy.

INGALDESTHORP. In the ninth year of King John, it appears, that one of the family that bore the name of this village being implicated in the murder of one Drugo Chamberlain, said to have been committed by Herbert de Pastele; the latter was sued by John



Engraved by E. Roberts from a Drawing by J. S. Coman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**SNETTISHAM CHURCH,
NORFOLK.**

Pub. 4 Oct. 1818 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Chamberlain, the brother of the deceased, when, by the king's licence, the crime and the punishment were compromised in the following way: Herbert was to travel to Jerusalem, there to serve God for the soul of Drugo who was slain, during the space of seven years, including the time of his going and returning. If he returned to England before that time, he was to be punished as a convict, and Thomas de Ingaldesthorp, supposed to have been accessory, was to find a monk of Norwich, or Binham, or a canon of Thetford, Cokesford, or Walsingham, to pray for the soul of Drugo, and to pay to Drugo's parents the sum of twenty marks.

Ingaldesthorp was also the residence of the family of Sir Thomas de Walkefare, who signalized himself at the battle of Poitiers. In the 31st of Edward III. he had from that monarch a safe conduct for his prisoner, Sir Tristram de Mugalies, for Broinard, Gerrard de Brois, and Megerdos, the shield-bearers or esquires of the said Sir Tristram, and for his three valets, to go on horseback or on foot to France to procure his ransom.

SHERNBURN lies to the left of Ingaldesthorp. Several of our historians with Sir Henry Spelman relate, that one Thorpe was lord of this town when Felix the bishop of the East Angles came into this part of the diocese to convert it to christianity, and that being one of the bishop's converts, he built the church here dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. This is said to have been the second in the kingdom of the East Angles, the first being founded sometime before at Babingley, under the patronage of the same bishop.

The present church is an antique pile, dedicated to St. Peter: it has a nave covered with lead, never had any tower, and the chancel has been long in ruins.

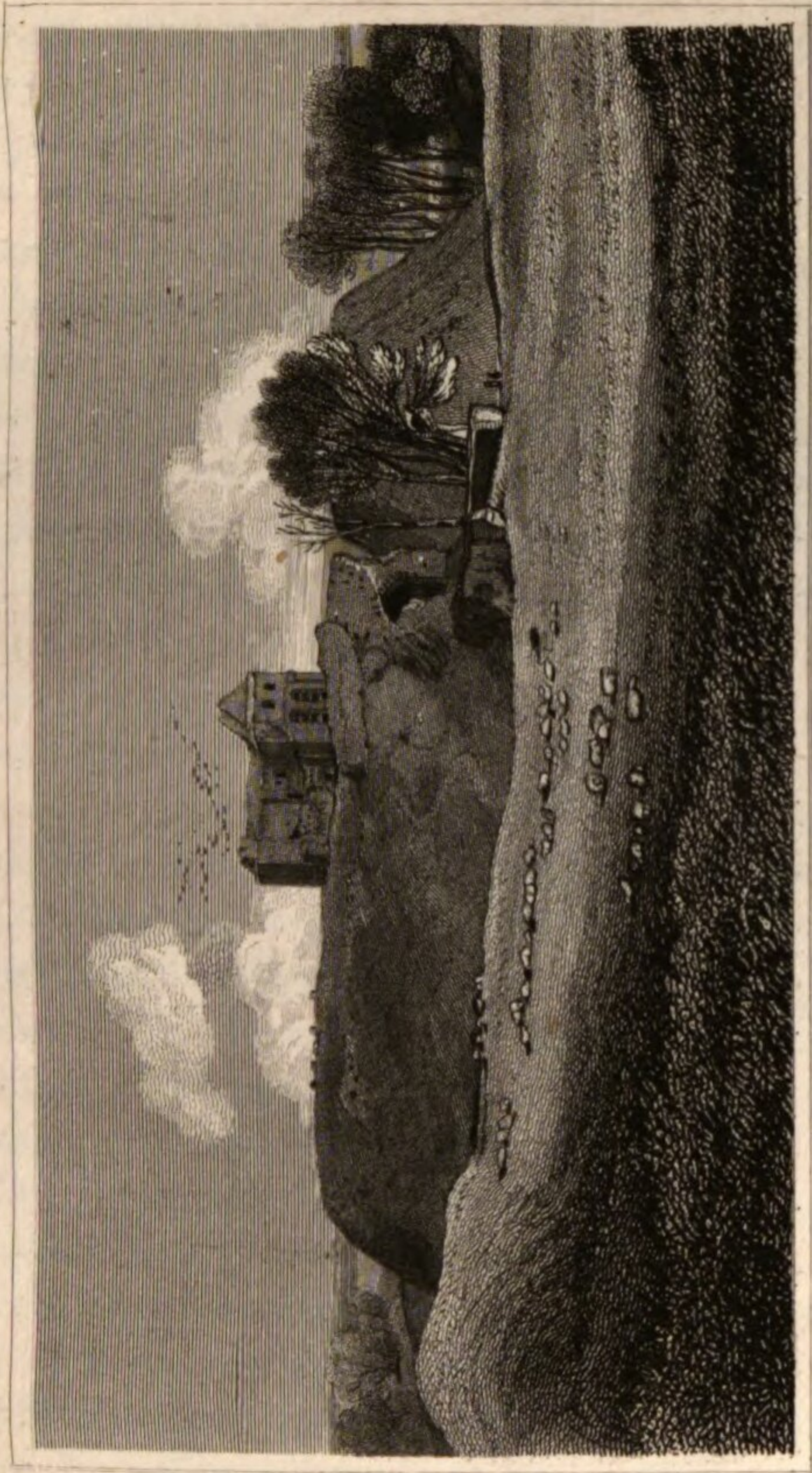
DERSINGHAM lies two miles from Ingaldesthorp,

between us and our road : the church here is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and is a very large pile of building, composed of boulder, flint, &c. as many of the churches in Norfolk are. The nave and two aisles are covered with lead, and at the west end of the former is a strong square tower with five bells, upon that a lantern with another bell and a little shaft. At the south-east part of the church-yard there was formerly a chapel, but this has been long in ruins.

Sanderingham Hall and park lie on the left, near Rising Lodge, the seat of Col. Howard ; passing which we arrive at

CASTLE RISING. This burgh or borough, Spelman observes, is of such high antiquity that the royal records furnish no account of it. The sea is stated to have formerly flowed up to the town, which was probably a port. Mr. King, in his *Munimenta Antiqua*, supposes it was one of Alfred's great castles. Arches are yet remaining characteristic of the style of building used in the time of the Saxon monarchs. A castle, however, it is certain, was erected in this place by William de Albini, the first Earl of Sussex, sometime prior to the year 1176, on a hill to the south of the town. It was a noble pile, built in the manner of Norwich castle, and was nearly equal to that in its dimensions. The walls of the keep are mostly three yards thick, and the whole is encompassed by a deep ditch and bold rampart, on which was a strong wall with three towers. These the possessors of Hunstanton, Reydon, and the two Woottons, were bound by their tenures constantly to defend. The only entrance on the east side was over a bridge, at the inner extremity of which was a fortified gatehouse. One room, where the court leet used to be held, is more perfect than the other parts.

This castle differs considerably from the generality of fortifications. The square keep, instead of being on



Engraved by W. Mordaunt from a Drawing by J. S. A. A. for the Excavations through the Norfolk.

Remains of
CASTLE RISING CASTLE.
NORFOLK.

Publ'd Decr 1838 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

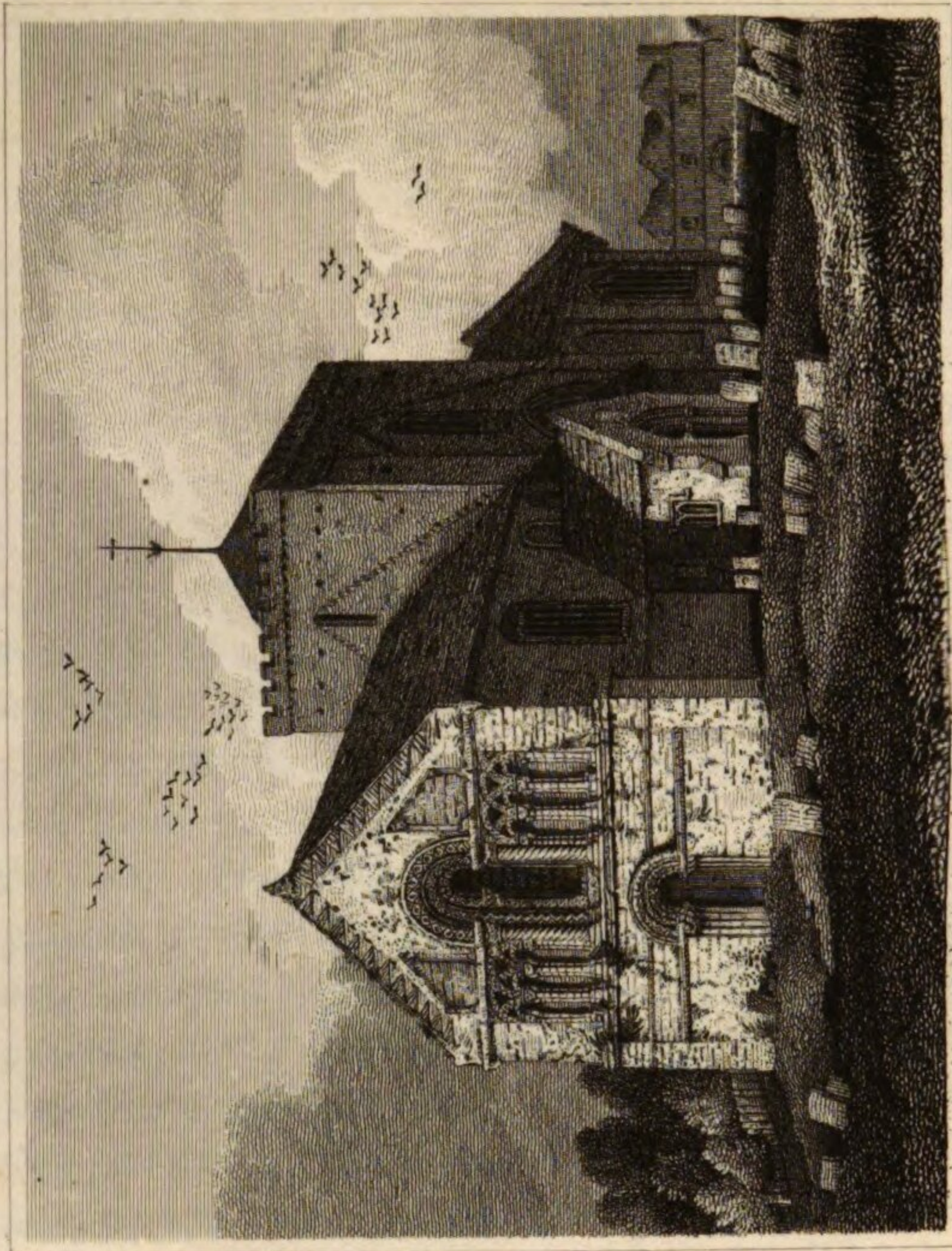
a lofty mound or hill, is in a hollow area surrounded by a high land and deep vallum. This bank, however, was formerly surrounded by a fortified wall, and its entrance formed by a bridge and a tower gateway. To the east of these was an outer area enclosed with another high bank and deep vallum, forming a sort of bastion to the citadel. The shell of the keep tower remains, and displays some ornamental windows, door-ways, &c. The size of the great hall and some other apartments may still be ascertained.

In this fortress, Isabel, queen of the unfortunate monarch, Edward II., was confined after the death of her favourite Earl Mortimer. This confinement lasted from the year 1330 till her death in 1358. Here she was visited by her son Edward III. and his queen in 1340, and again by the king, in 1344. Isabel was daughter to Philip the Fair, king of France, and sister to Lewis Hutin, Philip the Long, and Charles the Fair, all whom were successively kings of France. These dying without issue, Isabel was entitled to the French crown; but by the old statute of the *Salique Law*, which excluded females, she was prevented from ascending the throne, and her son, King Edward III. having also been deprived of his just right, by the advancement of Philip Valois, whose father was younger brother to Philip the Fair, made war against France, assumed the title of king, and quartered the arms, three *fleur de lis*, with the arms of England.

The corporation of the borough, Castle Rising, is very ancient. It was formerly governed by a mayor, recorder, high steward, twelve aldermen, a speaker of the commons, and fifty burgesses. At present the corporation consists of only two aldermen, who alternately serve the office of mayor, and he is the returning officer of two members to the British senate. It has been observed, that though at an election five or six names appear on the poll-book, yet it is questionable

whether, except the rector of the parish, there be a single legal voter.

Near the east end of the church-yard there is a square building, called the *Alms-house*, containing thirteen apartments, a spacious hall, kitchen and chapel, which projects from the east end, for the accommodation of a governess and twelve poor women. It was founded by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, in the reign of King James I. Their monthly allowance is 8s. each, and the governess has 12s.; but on festival days appointed by the founder they have an addition of 1s. 8d. to every poor woman. Every year each poor woman and the governess have for their constant apparel a gown of strong cloth or kersey, of a dark colour, and every seventh year a livery gown (and a hat) of blue broad cloth, lined with baize, with the founder's badge or cognizance set on the breast, being a lion rampant, *argent*, embroidered. The governess is allowed two chaldron of coals per annum, and the rest one chaldron each. They are obliged to hear prayers read by the governess at nine in the morning and three in the afternoon, by the toll of a bell; they are also enjoined to use certain prayers appointed by their founder morning and evening in their own apartments, and to go to church, morning and evening, every Sunday and holiday, and Wednesday and Friday, and are not to go out without the leave of the governess. The qualifications required for admission are, that each person shall be of an honest life and conversation, religious, grave and discreet, able to read, if such a one may be had, a single woman, her place to be void upon marriage, to be fifty years of age at least, no common beggar, harlot, scold, drunkard, haunter of taverns, inns, or alehouses. They also lose their places if, after admission, any lands descend to them of the value of 5*l.* per an-



Engraved by J. Crag from a drawing by J. S. Cragman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**CASTLE RISING CHURCH.
NORFOLK.**

Pub. & Sep. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

num, or goods to the value of 50*l*. On being guilty of atheism, heresy, blasphemy, faction in the hospital, injury, or disgracing the assistants, neglect of duty, or misbehaviour in the performance of it, or any thing to the hurt or prejudice of the hospital, they are expelled. The duty of the governess is to preserve the household stuff of the hospital; to take care of the sick; to cause the gates to be shut morning and evening at due hours; to deliver out the blue gowns every Sunday and holiday morning, and receive them back at night; to ring the bell every morning and evening for prayers; to shut the gates at prayer time; to look to the reparations of the hospital, that not so much as one stone be missing either in the walls or upon the hospital, by the space of a month; to keep the piece of ground on the north-west side of the hospital next adjoining the walls, and preserve the trees; to keep her garden plot fair and handsome; to reside constantly there; not to lie abroad without licence, nor above seven days with licence in any one year; to give security in 20*l*. penalty to the mayor of Rising on her admission for the performance of duty; not to permit any stranger to lie in the hospital; and to dine and sup with the poor women in the hall on festival days.

The offences of the governess are to be certified to the Earl of Arundel, or his heir, by two of the assistants, and the earl to proceed by expulsion, or otherwise, as he shall think fit. If the earl or his successor, after a certificate sent to him of the death or removal of the governess, or of any poor woman, does not perform this duty, it then devolves upon the mayor of Lynn. There was also a famous chace for deer, and a warren, belonging to this lordship.

The parish church at Rising is an ancient curious structure, and is distinguished by some singular architectural ornaments on its western front. Intersecting

arches, columns with spiral and diamond-shape mouldings, having the archivolt mouldings nearly similar, form the peculiar features of this façade. The church consists of only one aisle, with a square tower near the centre. The font is a large ancient piece of workmanship. There are no inscriptions of note in this edifice.

We now pass South Wootton, and arrive at Lynn Regis, at which place our excursion ends.

LYNN REGIS. This ancient, respectable, and commercial town is situated on the east side of the river Ouse, at the entrance of the Wash, about ten miles from the ocean. The houses are chiefly disposed in two principal streets, and several small ones, and are paved, but the buildings being old are consequently irregular. The more modern erections are well built and handsome, and a credit to the taste and opulence of the proprietors. The number of the houses is 2,199, and that of the inhabitants 10,259. Here are two annual fairs, one in February, and the other a week after Old Michaelmas: the former lasts six weeks, and the latter two. The markets are held on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The length of Lynn, from the south gate to the blockhouse at Fisher's end, is one mile and a quarter; and in the broadest part, from the river to the east gate, lately taken down, half a mile. Four small rivers, here called *Fleets*, divide the town into several parts, over which are eleven bridges. The whole is encompassed on the land side by a deep wet foss, flanked by a strong wall, now in a dilapidated state, which was formerly defended by nine bastions. At the north end is a platform battery mounted with ten eighteen pounders, planted here in 1627, and still called St. Anne's Fort.

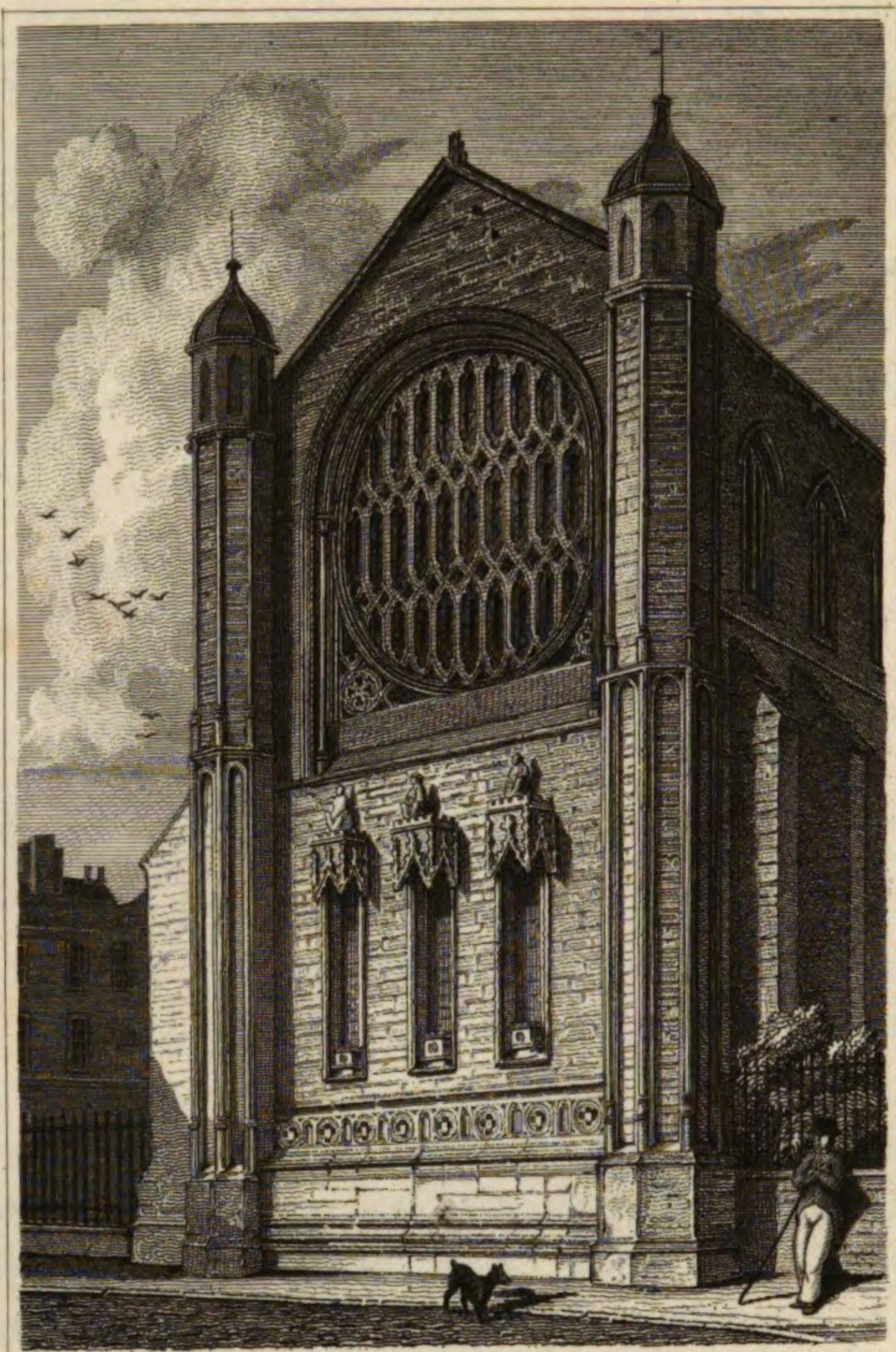
Lynn Regis is supposed by Camden to have been a British settlement, and the name, he says, is derived from *Llyn*, a lake or expanse of water; but Spelman

with more probability deduces this from the Saxon term *lean*, which signifies a *tenure in fee or farm*; and observes that its ancient appellation was *Len Episcopi*, that is, the *Bishop's farm*. In Domesday book it is written *Lun* and *Lena*, and at the time of the survey belonged to Agelmare, Bishop of North Elmham, and Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury. It is evident that it was a place of some consequence in the time of the Conqueror, from the privilege it enjoyed of certain duties and customs, payable on the arrival of goods and merchandize by sea and land; of which the bishop of the diocese at that time was seized of a moiety. Henry I. granted liberty to the priory of Norwich to hold a fair at Lynn, on the feast of St. Margaret, &c. with sac and soc, and other customs. In the reign of Richard I. a number of Jews resided at Lynn, a people at that time celebrated for trade over most parts of Europe. The town has been honoured with no less than fifteen royal charters. In the year 1204, King John, having chastised the revolted barons of Norfolk, halted with his army at this place, when on a petition of John Grey, Bishop of Norwich, who had lately erected a palace at Gaywood, in the vicinity, that monarch granted Lynn a charter to be a free borough for ever; the burgesses to choose a *præpositus*, or provost, who should be subject to the bishop—thence denominated the *Bishop's man*. Some persons, arguing upon the vague signification of *præpositus*, have denied that King John granted liberty to the town to be governed by a mayor. But by his letters patent, in the last year of his reign, directed "*To the mayor and good men of Lenn*," it appears an indisputable fact. That monarch presented the new corporation with an elegant embossed and enamelled cup and cover of silver, double gilt, weighing seventy-three ounces, and holding about a pint. This cup is still in a state of high

preservation, is used on public occasions, and exhibits a fine specimen of art at that period.

The late Mr. John Carter, the antiquary and draughtsman, having heard of the valuable cup given to the corporation here, by King John, at the time he granted their charter, and conceiving it would be a desirable article for his work, procured some introductions, and went down to make a drawing from it. Being an entire stranger, or as the corporation were actuated by some kind of suspicion, they positively and abruptly refused the permission required. After repeated applications, however, they consented—but on condition that Mr. Carter should be confined to a room, in company with a person chosen by themselves, but *paid by him*, whose business was to see that no improper liberties were taken with the valuable cup; and under these circumstances he actually made that drawing, from which he engraved the plate that is in his “Specimens of Sculpture.”

The same king is said to have taken from his side a silver-mounted sword, which he presented to the corporation to be borne before the mayor. An inscription in Latin, on one side of the hilt, records the donation; but Spelman and Bishop Gibson assert that it was actually the gift of Henry VIII. when the town coming into his possession, he converted the burgesses into aldermen, granted the place several privileges, and changed the name from *Lynn Episcopi* to *Lynn Regis*. In confirmation of this, the former inscription is supposed to be of later date than the time of King John. However, Mr. Mackerell, the antiquary of Lynn, observes, “that in a window on the north side of the choir, near the altar of St. Nicholas’s chapel, the arms of the town and the sword are depicted in stained glass, which was probably fixed there in the time of Henry III.”



Engraved by W. Deebie from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

East End of
ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, LYNN,
NORFOLK.

Pub. 4 Sep. 1818 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

The town is at present governed by a mayor and eighteen common council-men, a town-clerk, chamberlain, &c. The right of election is vested in the freemen and free burgesses, consisting of about three hundred and thirty persons, and the mayor is the returning officer.

One of the finest remains of antiquity, in the town of Lynn, is the church of St. Mary, which, with a priory, was founded by Herbert, bishop of Norwich, in the time of William Rufus. The founder granted forty days pardon to all persons who contributed towards the erection of the buildings, and the priory was constituted a cell to the monastery of Norwich. The church was a large spacious structure, and though curtailed of its original dimensions, is still a noble pile. The nave and the aisles form the present place of worship. The chancel, or choir, has also its aisles; and here is a transept, and two towers at the west end. The roof is supported by twenty-two columns; of which those east of the transept are formed by a cluster of five shafts to each. In this part of the building are some ancient carved stalls, and several flat monumental stones, with inscriptions; also some very large and fine brasses. At the east end is a circular window, with ten transverse mullions. This part of the church is divided from the transept by a wooden screen, which was erected in 1622. A lofty tower, or lantern, is said to have been originally at the intersection of the cross aisles; and a high spire to have surmounted one of the western towers. The latter display different styles of architecture, and the lower parts of them are very ancient. The buttresses of the angles to the southern tower consist of several small shafts of columns.

St. Margaret's church and priory were founded by

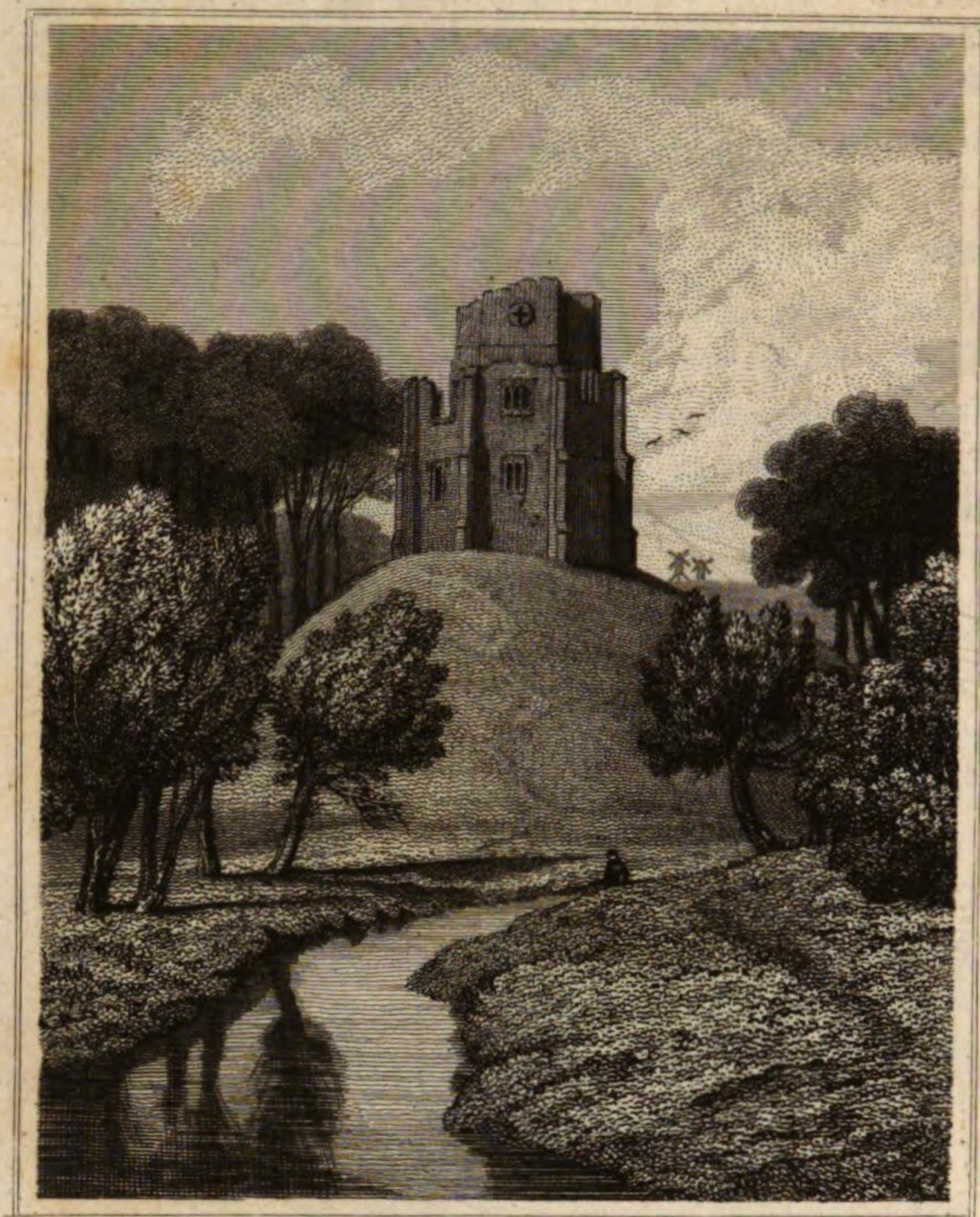
Herbert, Bishop of Norwich, in the reign of William II., and dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, St. Margaret, and all the maiden saints. In the register of Hoxon priory, in Suffolk, it appears by the deed and grant of this bishop, that this church and priory were built by him at the request of the men of Lenn. He appointed that all tithes and ecclesiastical dues of this village should be paid to this church, which he appropriated to the priory, and had it confirmed by the pope.

On the foundation of this priory, Herbert gave them, with but a small exception, all he possessed, as far as the church of William, son of Stanquin, on the other side of Sewaldesfeld, in rents, lands, and men; and he granted the Saturday market, and the fair on St. Margaret's day, and, beside these, he bestowed many other gifts on the church.

When this priory was a cell to the monastery of Norwich, that house appointed a monk of their body to be prior here at Lynn, who appears to have been responsible to the priory of Norwich for the rents and profits he received, and seems to have been removable at pleasure.

Bishop Turbe granted to this priory the church of Weyenhale St. Germans, and confirmed to the monks of Norwich the church of St. Margaret, and all their former grants.

The Charnel Hall. On the north side of this churchyard, says Blomefield, stands an ancient pile, a chapel, adjoining to the west end of the north aisle of the old church of St. Margaret. The upper part of this pile was a chapel, and the lower a charnel-house, where the bones taken out on the digging of graves were deposited. Every abbey and priory seems to have had one belonging to them, with a chapel over it. The upper part or chapel here, on the dissolution,



Engraved by J. Bishop, from a Drawing by J.S. Colman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**THE LADY'S CHAPEL, LYNN,
NORFOLK.**

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was converted into a free grammar-school, and so continues.

At the eastern extremity of the town is a curious ancient building, called The Lady's Chapel, or The Red Mount. It has been erroneously named a castle, but is evidently an ecclesiastical structure. It consists of an octagonal wall of red brick, and is constructed on a very singular plan, of which, perhaps, not a similar example is to be found in the kingdom. Within the exterior wall is a handsome cruciform chapel, measuring, from east to west, seventeen feet seven inches, by fourteen, from north to south, and thirteen in height. The roof is formed of stone, with numerous groins, &c. and resembles the much-admired ceiling of King's College Chapel, Cambridge.

St. Nicholas Chapel, conjectured to be built about the time of Edward III., is two hundred feet long, seventy-eight broad, and one hundred and seventy feet from the foundation to the top of the tower. The body consists of a nave, separated from the aisles by ten slender columns on each side; these support an equal number of acutely pointed arches, over which are twelve clerestory windows on each side. On the south side is an elegant porch, abundantly decorated with sculptured niches, shields, canopies, &c. The roof is groined, and the entrance door finely carved, to correspond with the style of the architecture. In the chapel are also some old seats, charged with curious specimens of carving. The east and west windows are very large and handsome, and display several perpendicular mullions, with tracery.

A large monument of white marble, in the shape of a sarcophagus, commemorates Sir Benjamin Keene, K. B. who was many years ambassador from this country to the court of Madrid; at which city he died, December 15, 1757. He was a native of this town, and his remains were brought here to be interred.

The Chapel of St. James, after the dissolution, being in a ruinous condition, was rebuilt in the year 1682, by the benefactions of the mayor and corporation, aided by contributions from the principal inhabitants. It was then converted into an hospital, for fifty old men, women, and poor children. Great additions have since been made to the building, and it having been placed under the control of the guardians of the poor, is now the general workhouse for the whole town.

St. Mary Magdalen's Hospital. A full and accurate account of this noble and ancient foundation, as Blomefield calls it in his time, was contained in a manuscript vellum book, preserved among the archives of the town's repository. This book chiefly expresses the original foundation of this hospital upon the causeway between Lenn and Gaywood, long since dissolved. "This ancient hospital," says Blomefield, "was founded by one Petrus Capellanus, in the reign of King Stephen, in honour of St. Mary Magdalen, and consisted of a prior and 12 brethren and sisters, in all 13, of whom ten, the superior being one, were sound, and three unsound or leprous, some ecclesiastical and some secular, bound to perform superstitious rites and prayers for the souls of men departed from this life, viz. for the soul of Petrus Capellanus, their founder, the souls of popes, bishops, abbots, priors, kings, queens, and others their benefactors." And almost all the lands given to this hospital were for the maintaining of prayers for the dead. Petrus Capellanus, their founder, died upon the 20th of January, A. D. 1174, in the 20th of Henry II., as appears from their obit book. The seal of this hospital was large and oblong, of red wax, and very curious: in the middle of it was the effigies of St. Mary Magdalen, in her right hand a box, (alluding to the ointment brought to

Jesus) and in her left a palm branch ; on the right side of this a shield, with two keys in saltier ; on the left the triangular emblem of the Trinity ; the legend, *Sigillum commune Marie Magdalen.*

The Exchange, or Custom House, was erected in the year 1683, by Sir John Turner, knt. It is a handsome freestone building, with two tiers of pilasters, the lower in the Doric, and the upper in the Ionic order, with a small open turret, terminating in a pinnacle. In a niche, in front, is a statue of King Charles the Second. This building contains several commodious apartments, and occupies the site of an old religious house, which was appropriated to the Trinity Guild. An open turret has been raised on the platform above, upon pillars of the Corinthian order, finished with an obelisk and ball, and crowned with a Fame. The whole is ninety feet high.

The Trinity Guild held here was an association for its kind highly respectable, and was called the Great Guild, in respect to others of less consequence in this place. The head or chief person, called the Alderman or Custos, was chosen by the commonalty, and continued in office during life, unless removed from infirmity or any other cause. This guild had its rise previous to the reign of King John. In the time of Richard II. they had a place called the *Common Stath*, with its appurtenances, valued at 42*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum clear, besides all reprises. Their goods and chattels also amounted in all to 260*l.* 13*s.* consisting of 60*l.* in ready money, besides many books, vestments, chalices, and other ornaments for their chaplains performing divine service for them, and in the parish church. Any of these not being of honest life and conversation, and neglecting their duty, being admonished by the alderman without amendment, were removable. Out of the profits of this stath or wharf, it appears they gave alms to the annual amount of 30*l.*

towards the support of the poor brethren of the guild, to the blind, lame, and other distressed persons; to poor clerks keeping school, and to poor religious houses as well of men as women; to the lepers in and about Lynn, and in the repairs of the parish church and chapels, and to the maintaining of several aqueducts for providing the town with water. The copy of the ordinances of this guild, as preserved in Blomefield, is strikingly illustrative of the domestic manners of those early times.

Besides the religious foundation already noticed, Lynn contained the following monasteries: the friars Carmelites, or white friars, in South Lynn; the friars Minorites, or grey friars; the preaching friars, or black friars; the Augustine friars; and the cell of priests belonging to Norwich, noticed in our account of St. Margaret's church. The four first of these were purchased of Henry VIII. by John Eyre, esq. one of the king's auditors or receivers, from whom they were conveyed to a priest, and afterwards purchased by the corporation of Lynn. This cell of priests was near the Guildhall, and the prior's house was somewhat remote from it. When Blomefield wrote, the site of the latter had just been consecrated and annexed to St. Margaret's churchyard. Priory-lane had its name from hence. Of these religious houses few vestiges now remain, excepting the sites of some of them walled round, and bearing their respective names, and a hexagon steeple, belonging to the monastery of the grey friars, which serves as a good land-mark to vessels entering the harbour.

Among other singular requests connected with a mendicant life, it appears that in Dec. 1349, the mayor and commonalty of Lynn petitioned William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich, begging his favour towards John Puttock to admit him as a hermit. It seems that in the bishop's marsh near Lynn, in a place called Lenne



Engraved by J. Græg, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Tower of the
GREY FRIARS CHURCH, LYNN.
NORFOLK.

Pub^d Apr. 1, 1818. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Crouch, this person had made a cave till he could build himself a proper mansion, purposing, as he declared, to spend all his time there in the service of God. It was added that the said John Puttock had, at his own cost and charge, erected a certain remarkable cross, of great service for all shipping coming that way, of the height of 110 feet. This place was afterwards called the Hermitage of Lynn Crouch.

In the fifth of Richard II. Henry le Despenser, Bishop of Norwich, wrote a letter to Roger Patman, mayor, and to the burgesses of Lynn, desiring for the love they bore to the bishop, that they would grant their part of the house of St. Catherine to one John Consolef, late servant to Lord le Despenser, brother to the bishop, there to live a solitary (an idle life) upon the alms of the good people. This house belonged to St. Catherine's chapel, mentioned in 1497, but where it stood is not certain.

The Tuesday Market-place comprises a spacious area of three acres, and is surrounded by some good houses. At one end, on an ascent of four steps, stands a market cross, of freestone, erected in the year 1710. The lower part is encompassed by a handsome peristyle, formed by sixteen columns of the Ionic order. Over this is a walk, secured by an iron balustrade, including a neat octagonal room; the outside walls of which are ornamented with four niches, containing the statues of the cardinal virtues. The upper part is finished with a cupola, in which hangs the market-bell, and the whole is seventy feet in height. From the cross, in a semicircular direction on each side, extends a range of covered stalls or shambles, having a small turret at each end.

The Saturday market is kept in a convenient area, near St. Margaret's churchyard, and here are capacious shambles.

The Theatre was a hall belonging to St. George's

guild, and for some years used as the court-house for holding the quarter sessions of the peace for the county of Norfolk. Near St. Mary's church is the Guildhall, an ancient building of stone and flint. It contains a large stone hall, assembly-rooms, and courts for the administration of justice, &c. Here are the following portraits:—Full-length of Sir Robert Walpole, who was returned member for this borough seventeen times; and so completely was it under his control, that even after he was expelled the House of Commons, he continued member for this place:—Half-length of Sir Thomas White, *knt.* the liberal benefactor to young tradesmen:—A half-length of Sir Benjamin Keene, *knt.* The assembly-rooms are capacious, and consist of three in a line. The first, formed out of the old town-hall, is fifty-eight feet in length, by twenty-seven wide, and proportionably lofty. The ball-room is sixty feet long, twenty-seven broad, and twenty-two feet high. The card-room is twenty-seven feet by twenty-seven, and twenty-two feet in height.

The new walk or mall from the bars by the work-house by Gannock gates, is about three hundred and forty yards long, and eleven yards wide between the quickset hedgerows. At convenient distances on each side of the walk a recess is left in the hedge of a semi-circular form, where benches are fixed, each capable of holding twenty people. A gentle ascent on the right has been adorned with a plantation and a shrubbery.

The town, not having any fresh springs, was formerly much distressed for water; but it is now supplied from a river near Gaywood, whence the water is conveyed by small canals, of between two and three miles in extent, to the conduits in the town.

In the year 1803 an act of parliament was obtained for paving and otherwise improving the town; the powers of which were further extended in 1806. By virtue of this many of the streets have been new paved,



Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**SOUTH GATE LYNN,
NORFOLK.**

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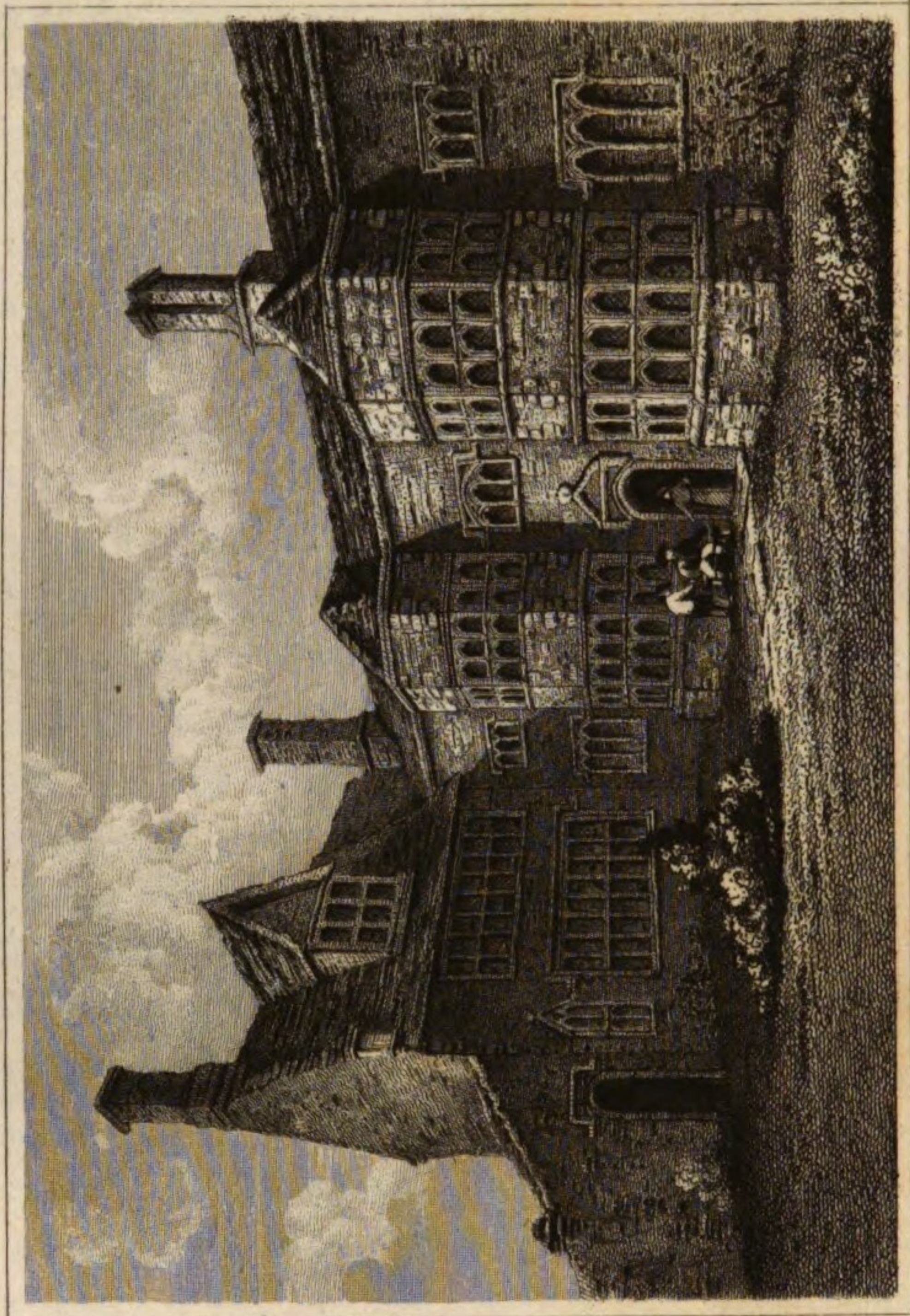
obstructions and other nuisances removed; and the avenue from the south gates, instead of opening, as formerly, through the narrowest and worst-built streets, has been directed more to the east, and now presents to the traveller an approach superior to that of most other maritime towns in the kingdom. The bridges over the fleets have been made lower and wider, and a communication opened over Purfleet-bridge for carriages. The projected improvements were estimated to cost 20,000*l.* exclusive of the annual expense for lighting, cleansing, &c.

Lynn harbour is deep, but the anchorage is bad, from the oozy bed of the river. It is capable of receiving about three hundred sail of shipping. At what time it was first used as a haven is not ascertained. Camden is of opinion, that the port was originally at West-Lynn, on the opposite side of the river; but it is improbable, as no records exist to prove that this was ever more than an inconsiderable village. The river passing between both those places was merely a narrow stream, and consisted of the water of the Little Ouse only. A change occurred in the direction of that river about the time of Henry III., subsequent to whose reign Lynn aspired to commercial consequence, and gradually rose from its primitive obscurity, and progressively became a considerable port.

The situation of this port, so near the North Sea, and the inland navigation which is connected with it, gives the town great commercial advantages. It is open to a communication with all the north of Europe; and by means of the Ouse, and its collateral rivers, can extend its navigation into eight counties, exclusive of the other conveyances by land carriage and canals. It imports annually about 100,000 chaldrons of coals, and above 2,000 pipes of wine; in which two articles it exceeds all other ports in England, except

London, Bristol, Newcastle, &c. In return for these and other heavy articles, with which it supplies the interior, it receives back for exportation corn and various manufactured articles. Prior to the late French war its foreign trade was very considerable, especially to the Baltic, Norway, Holland, Portugal, and Spain.

REFFLEY. The fine majestic wood and mineral spring of Reffley, distant from Lynn about two miles, have long afforded to the inhabitants of that town and its neighbourhood a delightful retreat, where, in summer's sultry days, amidst its shady recesses, surrounded by sylvan scenery and greeted by the melody of birds, they can awhile forget their serious cares, and unbend the mind by friendly and jocund converse over the social bowl, (the contents of which yield an additional relish by the peculiarly grateful flavour which Reffley's limpid fountain bestows,) whilst the cheerful song, the enlivening minstrelsy, and the sprightly dance, occasionally impart their attractive influence. Travellers from all parts of the kingdom have long borne ample testimony to the fascinations of this romantic place, and the classic muse has celebrated, in appropriate strains, its picturesque varieties, where Arcadian scenes present themselves in all the luxuriant and wild sublimity of nature. In a sequestered spot, completely overcanopied by the thick shadowy foliage of trees and bushes, a rural fountain presents itself, in the midst of which arises a handsome obelisk, from whence, by means of an aqueduct, the chalybeate stream is projected: around this fountain seats are placed, and at a little distance on one side is a public canopy. On the opposite side, an octagon temple, (built and supported by subscription, and appropriated to the accommodation of the subscribers and their friends,) stands at the extremity of a small lawn, encompassed by the lofty trees and embowering shrubs, whose wide-spreading and irregular branches are



Engraved by E. Roberts from a Drawing by Mr. Ladbury for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Remains of

BISHOP HALL'S PALACE, HEIGHAM.

NORFOLK.

Pub. & Sold by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

adapted to the purposes of "shelter and shade," affording at once an interesting picture and an agreeable influence. In August, 1818, the members and friends of Reffley met and dined together in a pavilion erected upon the lawn fronting the temple, to celebrate the return to parliament of Sir Martin Browne Folkes, bart. one of the members for the town, the proprietor of the soil and wood of Reffley, and the patron of the spring; and also in compliment to him for erecting a new canopy there, and for other improvements bestowed upon the place, and indulgences granted to its visitants.

EXCURSION VI.

From Norwich through Easton, Honingham, Hockering, East Dereham, Scarning, Wendling, Fransham, Necton Swaffham, Narborough, West Bilney, East Winch, Middleton Hardwick, Lynn, Wiggshall St. Germans, Wiggshall St. Mary, Islington, Tilney, Terrington, Walpole, St. Peter's, and West Walton, to Walsoken.

HEIGHAM is less than a mile distant from Norwich, and is the first place we pass in commencing our present excursion.

The road proceeds along the side of Costessey park, which is between four and five miles from Norwich: nearly the same distance, but lying about two miles to the right, is the village of

COSTESS, or COSTESSEY, situated in one of the largest manors in the county. In the Confessor's time it belonged to Guert, but after the Conquest to Alan, Earl of Richmond, surnamed both Rufus and Fergaunt,

one word signifying *red*, and the other *iron glove*. He was the son of Eudo, Earl of Britanny, and commanding the rear of the Conqueror's army at the battle of Hastings, advanced to the earldom of Richmond, which, before that, was the honour of Edwin, Earl of Mercia. Immediately on taking possession, he built a strong castle at his capital mansion of Gilling, in Yorkshire; however, his humane treatment of the English caused him to be much respected by them. He had not less than 81 manors in Norfolk. He married Constance, one of the Conqueror's daughters, but died without issue, and was succeeded by Alan Niger, or Alan the Black, a great favourite of William Rufus. In 1312, Edward II. granted Cossey to Sir John de Claveringe for life: Sir John the same year sued William Fiz, and 17 other villeins, of his manor of Cossey, for withdrawing themselves, their goods and chattles, out of his manor, and dwelling in other places, as it was pleaded, to his and the king's prejudice; upon which a writ was directed to force them to come and dwell in the manor, bringing all their goods with them. Upon the trial, six of them pleaded that they had obtained their freedom by living in Norwich, and paying scot and lot there thirty years. Two others pleaded that they were born within the walls of that city, and appealed to the Conqueror's charter, expressing that if any servants or *villeins* lived without claim of their lords, (i. e. without paying *chevage*, or a fine for license so to do) for a year and a day, in any of the king's cities, walled towns, or in the camp, from that day they and their posterity should be free for ever. Upon this appeal six of them were declared freemen; two others obtained the same privilege, by proving that Edward I. granted their fathers houses and lands in Norwich, but all the rest were forced to return and live in *villeinage* under their lord. This manor came to the crown under Henry VIII. and was granted by



Engraved by T. Higham, from a Drawing by Thirde, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

COSTESEY PARK,
The Seat of Sir Geo. Jenningsham, Bart.
NORFOLK.

Pub. 25s. 12d. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Queen Mary to her Vice-Chamberlain, Sir Henry Jernegan: the family have been settled here ever since, and were a younger branch of the Jernegans, of Somerley Town, in the island of Lothingland, in Suffolk. According to Weaver, the Jernegans were persons of distinction before the Conquest. In the year 1030, he says, Canute, King of Denmark and England, after his return from Rome, brought several captains and soldiers from Denmark, whereof the greatest part were christened and settled here in England. Jernegan was in such esteem with Canute, that he gave him certain manors in Norfolk; and to Jeningho, or Jennings, he gave others lying on the sea side near Harwich in Suffolk, as a reward for the services they had performed for his father, Sweyn.

This respectable family have never removed from this place since the establishment of their ancestor, Jernegan Fitz-Hugh, who married Sibyll, who, in 1183, paid 100*l.* of her gift into the Exchequer after her husband's decease.

Costessey, or *Cossey Hall* and Park, the seat of Sir George Jerningham, bart. are situated in a part of the county agreeably diversified by hill and dale. The house, partly ancient and partly modern, contains several good and convenient apartments. Among the pictures, one of Queen Mary is said to be by Holbein; and another of the celebrated Earl of Arundel, his Countess, and three children, is ascribed to Vandyck, being designed by him, as a kind of companion to his celebrated painting of the Pembroke family, at Wilton. Near the house a chapel was erected, under the direction of Edward Jerningham, esq. It has lofty windows, with pointed arches, mullions, &c. each of which is ornamented with painted glass, the whole producing a very agreeable effect. The library at Cossey Hall is said to be excellent in its kind.

The church at Costessey is dedicated to the holy King

Edmund, and had three gilds in it: the nave is leaded, the chancel is thatched. The arms of Jernegan are carved on one of the screens; those of Ufford are on a window in the north chancel, with an emblem of the Trinity.

Six miles from Norwich, on the high road, we arrive at

EASTON, or the East Town. This place is not so named on account of its situation with respect to Norwich, but to Higham, though in ancient writings it was called Estone by Honingham. The family of the Davys, or Davies, were formerly seated here, and had a good estate. The mansion-house occupied by Robert Davy, in 1450, he left to John Davy, his son and heir. In the church there are several inscriptions upon different members of this family. By the will of Thomas Davies, 1509, he bequeathed to the township of Eastone, by Rengland, the house at "The briggs fote ther, called the Gwyld-house, and to the repair and maintenance of the same, a tenement lying within the yerde thereto belonging."

The village of Easton was the birth-place of Adam de Easton, afterwards a cardinal, descended from the family of the Eastons, considerable owners here and in Honingham. The cardinal had been a Benedictine monk of Norwich, doctor of divinity, and a person of great prudence and learning, as appears from his being raised to the purple "without money or favour, and for his worth only." In the 5th of King Richard II. or in 1382, he is called by that king Cardinales Norwicensis, or the Norwich cardinal, an act which is sufficient to do away any assertion from other quarters that the cardinal was a Herefordshire man, and born of mean parents. The lodge on Easton heath, commonly called Easton Lodge, Blomefield thought an ancient building, and exceeding strong, built so as to survey the heath and resist the weather, to which it was much

exposed, it having been formerly the lodge of the gamekeeper of Cossey manor : it is now the residence of — Forster, esq.

HONINGHAM lies about a mile beyond Easton. This town, with the hamlet of Thorp, belonged to the manor of Cossey, and continued with it till the lords of Cossey granted away divers fees, and the advowson of the church. In 1434, John Shepherd, bailiff of Cossey, and John Baroghby, forester, accounted for 68s. quit rents of a fulling mill, water mill, and dove-house; for 2000 arrows, sold at 10s. which cost 5s. the making, and for repairing the common oven, which the lord maintained for his tenants to bake in. The church here is ancient, but contains nothing very interesting.

Honingham Hall is the seat of Lord Bayning.

WELBORNE, and EAST TUDDENHAM, lie to our left, but do not possess any thing requiring particular attention.

HOKERING is about ten miles and a half from Norwich. Here it is probable was anciently a castle, as this was the principal manor of the barony of Rye. The church is a single pile, with a round tower and one bell. The Smallpiece family had a very considerable estate here.

MATESHALE lies about a mile to our left. It appears that the bounty of one of the members of the ancient family named de Herleston, that lived in this town, gave rise to a singular custom. Margaret, daughter of Robert Harleston of this place, the wife of Dr. Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, gave lands here, in 1569, to the value of 50s. per annum, to the poor of the parish, and caused an annual sermon to be preached in the church on Tuesday in Rogation week, by a fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

This annual sermon was so much frequented, that Blomefield observed, ' The great resort to it occa-

sioned a sort of fair on that day, commonly called *Mateshale Gant*, or *gang*, a word anciently used for perambulating the bounds of parishes in Rogation week. The church has a good square embattled tower at the west end, which contains six bells and a clock. Robert Forster Wulman, by his will in 1507, bequeathed 40 marks to the making the chapel of Our Lady in the east end of the south aisle of this church. It was also his wish to be buried here, and to have a gravestone to the amount of 40s.

NORTH TUDDENHAM lies on the same side of the road, but affords no object of particular interest.

EAST DEREHAM is a market-town, 16 miles from Norwich. This manor, in Domesday Book, is said to have belonged to St. Edeldrede, or to the church or monastery of Ely. This town has been most unfortunately exposed to two very dreadful fires; the first occurred in July, 1581, and the latter on the 3d of the same month, in the 21st of Charles II., when it was almost entirely ruined, though fortunately only five persons lost their lives: the loss of horses and other cattle was considerable, and not less than 170 houses were consumed. The sum total of the damage sustained was estimated at 19,443*l*. The ecclesiastical history of East Dereham is of great antiquity.

The church is a large pile, built in the collegiate form: it has a nave, a north and south aisle, two transepts or cross aisles, and a chancel, with an antique tower rising in the centre; but this not being deemed sufficiently strong to bear the heavy bells, in the reign of Henry VIII. a large one, called the new *clocher*, was erected on the south side of the churchyard. The transepts formerly contained the chapels of the Holy Cross, St. Withburga, St. Mary, &c. The former was repaired in Henry VIIIth's time, by the family of the Bottons: the treasury, or ammunition chamber, was over this chapel. The south porch was built by Roger and

Margaret Boton, whose names are inscribed on the stone.

East Dereham may possibly derive some celebrity from having been the residence of one of our most esteemed modern poets. William Cowper was born on the 26th of November, 1731: his father, the Rev. John Cowper, D. D. was rector of Great Berkhamstead, Herts. The poet's mother was Anne, the daughter of Roger Donne, esq. of Ludham Hall, in Norfolk, who died when he was about six years old. The sight of her picture, nearly fifty years afterwards, occasioned one of his most exquisite poems. At an early age he was sent to a respectable seminary at Market-street, but was afterwards removed to Westminster-school, where the tyranny exercised over him by the elder boys served still more to depress a mind unassuming and timid in the extreme; he, however, acquired great reputation as a scholar. At the age of eighteen, he was articled to Mr. Chapman, an attorney, a profession which only increased his melancholy; but being entered afterwards at the Inner Temple, he cultivated the friendship of some of his old Westminster school-fellows, Bonnel Thornton, Colman, &c. whom he assisted in their periodical paper the *Connoisseur*. In 1762, Mr. Cowper was appointed to the office of reading clerk, and clerk of the private committees in the House of Commons: this his diffidence in reading in public caused him to resign. He was afterwards promoted to the office of clerk of the journals, when an unexpected event rendering his attendance in the house indispensable, his apprehension and alarm quite overpowered his reason, and his relations were induced to place him under the care of Doctor Cotton, at St. Albans. Here he overcame the religious melancholy that had long oppressed him, and in the summer of 1765, quitted St. Albans to reside at Huntingdon, where he became acquainted with the family

of the Rev. Mr. Unwin, who lost his life by a fall from his horse, before Cowper had enjoyed his friendship two years. Soon after the death of Mr. Unwin, his widow and Cowper removed to Olney, in Buckinghamshire, upon the invitation of Mr. Newton, then curate; a mutual attachment being here cemented, they jointly produced a volume entitled *Olney Hymns*. But whilst at Olney the death of his beloved brother, the Rev. John Cowper, again subjected him to that rooted melancholy that could not be eradicated by medical art, nor repelled by human reason, and a train of desponding reflections ended in the entire derangement of his reasoning powers, which he did not in any degree emerge from in less than twelve years. After Mr. Newton's removal to St. Mary Woolnoth's, in London, the Rev. Mr. Bull, of Newport, became Mr. Cowper's friend and companion, who persuaded him to translate some of Madame Guyon's poetry. The first volume of Cowper's poems was mostly written at the instigation of Mrs. Unwin; its success was not marked, but before his second volume was published his merit was acknowledged. In 1781, he became acquainted with Lady Austen, and most of his lighter pieces were composed in compliance with this lady's wish, particularly the humorous adventure of John Gilpin. Shortly after, 1784, Mr. Cowper commenced the arduous undertaking of a translation of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and in the succeeding summer renewed his acquaintance with his cousin, Lady Hesketh, after a suspension of nearly fifty years. In June, 1786, he went to reside at Weston Lodge: in 1791, he published his *Homer* by subscription; and in 1792, he was visited by William Hayley, esq.; but the declining health of his friend, Mrs. Unwin, seemed to embitter every thing else. He attended her to Eartham, in Sussex, on a visit to Mr. Hayley; but in the autumn of the same year they returned to Weston. In

the latter part of 1793, Mr. Hayley again visited Weston: Mrs. Unwin's increasing illness suggesting the necessity of a change of air, Mr. Cowper accompanied her, in 1795, to the house of his relative, the Rev. Mr. Johnson, at North Tuddenham in Norfolk. In hopes that the bracing gales of the ocean might invigorate the languid systems of his aged friends, this gentleman conducted them to Mundesley, situated by the sea side; from whence, in October, they removed to Dereham Lodge. The next year they again visited Mundesley, but its healthful situation was of no avail; they again retired to Mr. Johnson's house at East Dereham, where Mrs. Unwin expired without a groan on the 17th of December, 1796, and was buried in the north aisle of Dereham church. Mr. Cowper after this was scarcely ever known to have mentioned her name: his own health vacillated till January, 1800, when a dropsical disorder coming on, he died on the 27th of April, and closed a life which, with few exceptions, had been a series of doubts and distressing sensations. He certainly realized the sentiments he has thus expressed:

Come, then, a still small whisper in thine ear,
He has *no hope*, who never had a fear;
And he who *never doubted* of his state,
He *may perhaps*, perhaps *he may too late*.

The north transept of East Dereham church contains a very neat monument of white marble, with this inscription:

In Memory of
WILLIAM COWPER, esq.

Born in Hertfordshire, 1732,

Buried in this church, 1800.

Ye who with warmth the public triumph feel,
Of talents dignified with sacred zeal,
Here, to devotion's bard devoutly just,
Pay your fond tribute due to Cowper's dust;

England, exulting in his spotless fame,
Ranks with her dearest sons his fav'rite name.
Sense, fancy, wit, suffice not all to raise
So clear a title to affection's praise ;
His highest honours to the heart belong,
His *virtues* form'd the magic of his song.

During the time of the Saxons, Withburga, natural daughter of one of the kings of East Anglia, settled here, with some other virgins, and erected a nunnery, of which she became the first head : this house was afterwards destroyed by the Danes. The church at East Dereham was made parochial in the year 798. An abbey was subsequently founded here, but it is not known by whom. Roger Jarney was the last abbot, and as he received a considerable pension after its surrender to Henry VIII., it is inferred the revenues were considerable. The site of the abbey was disposed of to Thomas Dereham. A curious arch still remains in the churchyard, covering a spring, formerly supposed to possess very salubrious qualities. This spring is said to have risen in the church, and run under the body of it in and through the tomb of St. Withburga, which now forms a bath. A subscription was opened for the improvement of this bath, and it was proposed to place a stone at the head of it with this inscription—
“ This tomb, at one time, contained the ashes of a royal princess, St. Withburga, the youngest daughter of Anna, or Annas, King of the East Angles, who died in the 645th year of the christian æra. In the year 974, the abbots and monks of Ely, through a pious fraud, stole this precious relic out of the church, and translated it to Ely cathedral, where it was again enshrined with her three royal sisters.” The arch or the ruins of this tomb have been repaired several times, the last time in the year 1793.

In this church, at the upper end of St. Edmund's chapel, stands a very curiously carved old oaken chest,

in which the writings and papers belonging to the church and charities are deposited, with the names of the donors, the particulars of which are also prudently placed on two tables on each side of the chest, and upon the chest, in a brass plate, are engraved the following words : “ As a token of respect towards his native place, Samuel Rash, esq. on the 1st day of January, 1786, presented to the church of East Dereham this chest, for the purpose of keeping together and preserving the deeds, records, and other writings belonging to this parish.” The lock of this chest is curiously ornamented with a representation of the nativity, and is opened by a spring very artfully concealed from sight. Upon its sides are several large figures carved, expressing the cardinal virtues and the gifts of the Holy Ghost, agreeably to the doctrines of the church of Rome. It is supposed to be upwards of 400 years old, and was found in the ruins of Buckenham castle. The curious and handsome font here was erected in 1468 : it rests upon an octangular pedestal, consisting of two flights of steps, the uppermost being decorated with roses and quatrefoils. The centre or shaft is ornamented with full length figures of eight of the apostles ; at the angles, beneath these, are the four evangelists, with the respective symbols of an angel, a lion, a bull, and an eagle. A fine large brass eagle, on a pedestal of the same, supported by three small lions, all gilt, stands in the middle aisle, and was formerly used as a *Litany desk*. A very handsome branch, consisting of a double circle of candlesticks, was purchased for this church in 1738, at the charge of 25*l*. The sanguinary Edmund Bonner was rector here from 1534 to 1540, after he became Bishop of London : it is computed that he caused upwards of 200 persons to be burnt, for what was then deemed heresy.

The history of the organ, erected in the year 1786,

is not without interest. It had been formerly the property of the Hon. Roger North, of Rougham, Attorney-General to King Charles the Second's queen, and brother to Lord Keeper North. From Dr. Burney's History of Music, it appears that this organ was built by one Bernard Schmidt, a German, and was esteemed one of the greatest efforts of human ingenuity for the sweetness of its stops, and soundness of its pipes, although made of wood and not of metal. For several years this excellent piece of mechanism was left in Dereham church as a piece of lumber, though it had been purchased of a poor widow for 30*l*. How or by whom its excellence was at length discovered is not upon record. Several dissenting congregations have their places of worship here.

East Dereham at present contains 551 houses, 2888 inhabitants, and has annual fairs on the Thursday and Friday before Old Midsummer and New Michaelmas day, for cattle, sheep, and toys: the weekly market is on Fridays, and the market-place is very convenient. In the centre of the town there is a square column, on the sides of which are inscribed the distances, in measured miles, from the principal towns and seats in the county. It has been remarked, that the distance expressed upon this pillar serves to fix the meaning of the term *leuca*, which some have supposed to be the French league of three miles, but which in reality signifies only one; for instance, Dereham is marked as being 16 miles from Norwich, and on the rolls of the King's Bench, it appears that the Bishop had a fair at this place, which was reckoned 16 *leucas*, viz. miles, from the palace at Norwich.

In 1756, a handsome assembly-room was built by subscription, in the place where the old market-cross formerly stood. Near this room there had been a sessions-house and a gaol, during the time when the town and hundred of Mitford were under the jurisdic-

tion of the bailiff, who was the Bishop of Ely's deputy, to whom the parish at that time belonged.

Before 1737, East Dereham was supposed to be the dirtiest town in the county, the streets uneven, and choked with filth, and on the spot where a handsome obelisk was erected by Sir Edward Astley was a pit of dirty water, called the Sand Pit, serving as the drain of the parish, and sometimes filled with dead dogs, cats, &c. Near a brewhouse was another standing drain, and a lane at the east end of the town was so narrow, as scarcely to admit the passing of a carriage. The same kind of a *holl-way*, as it was called, led down to the church and the vicarage-house. Since that time, the streets being levelled and paved, it has been said that like Venus, whom poets feign to have been created from the froth of the sea, Dereham has arisen to an equality with the best market-town in Norfolk. Sir Robert Walpole, afterwards Earl of Orford, hearing that the inhabitants intended to pave their town by subscription, was so pleased as to invite them to his princely palace at Houghton. Such of them as accepted the invitation were headed by the then chief constable, and clerk of the parish, of facetious memory, who, after being entertained in the most hospitable manner, received Sir Robert's donation of twenty guineas towards the good work carrying on. But this joyous company being exhilarated by liquor, forgot themselves so far as to be induced, by the proposals of a few, to sing in chorus a famous Jacobite song, called "All joys to great Cæsar," &c. Sir Robert, who was well acquainted with mankind, shewed no displeasure at their proceedings, but sent them home happy in themselves, and by no means displeased with him.

In 1775 an act was obtained for incorporating Mitford and Launditch hundreds, containing fifty-one parishes nearly in the centre of Norfolk, East

Dereham being the principal, for the better provision or the poor of those hundreds. This act met with such opposition, that had it not been for the efforts and assistance of Marquis Townshend, it might have failed of success. The corporation of Dereham soon afterwards purchased an old farm-house, formerly belonging to a religious establishment, with a barn, and about sixty acres of land in Gressenhall, for 1200*l.*, and upon a fine open spot erected a large convenient building, with proper offices, and a windmill for grinding their corn, at the expense of at least 10,000*l.* This house is situated nearly in the centre of both hundreds, upon a rising ground, at the bottom of which runs a pleasant stream of water, dividing Gressenhall from Hoe parish. The land, owing to the care and industry of Mr. James Moore, who was a gardener, was soon in a state of great improvement, producing vegetables which would have otherwise cost the corporation 100*l.* a year. They also kept eight cows, that supplied the house with milk, butter, and cheese. They likewise killed their own meat. The poor there maintained were then upon an average about 450. The building consists of a very large dining-hall, convenient and necessary offices, good lodging and working rooms; and in the wings are many separate rooms appropriated to married persons, widows and widowers, called cottages, fitted up with a fireplace in each for the comfort of the aged, infirm, and better sort of poor. At a convenient distance from the principal building is another, called the hospital, an old farm-house fitted up for the purpose. The paupers are chiefly employed in spinning hemp and wool, in gardening, and other works of industry; a quantity of hemp for spinning has been grown upon the premises. The principal officers consist of a house surgeon, a secretary and solicitor, a governor, a matron, nurses, schoolmaster and mistress, miller, baker, and others.

In 1776 a proper place was provided as a burial ground; this was enlarged in 1785, and consecrated by Dr. Bagot, Bishop of Norwich. A committee of five attend alternately every Tuesday to hear complaints, and afford relief to the poor out of the house, which has amounted to 500*l.* per annum. Upon the whole this establishment appears to have been one of the most liberal and best conducted in the kingdom.

For some time after the erection of this house the poor rates did not exceed 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound at a rack rent. There are, it is allowed, several estates and benefactions given in trust for the poor of particular descriptions, producing between sixty and seventy pounds per annum several years since; also estates for repairing and ornamenting the church nearly to the amount of 100*l.* per annum, besides houses and lands called the Headborough estates, for the public uses of the parish. In 1785 two Sunday schools were established, one for boys and the other for girls. The children are assisted with part of their necessary clothing.

The large gardens and orchards in the vicinity of Dereham have produced such a quantity of fruit and vegetables as not only to serve the parish, but also for sale elsewhere, so that Dereham has been called the garden of Norfolk.

Quebec Castle, or as it is sometimes called *Quebec House*, is about half a mile to the right, and is the seat of W. W. Lee Warner, esq.

YAXHAM lies about two miles to the left of East Dereham. Roger Bigod held land here of the Abbot of Ely soon after the Conquest, which at the survey he held of the king, so that it is observed both the Conqueror and Roger made no scruple of robbing the church of its possessions. The church has a nave, a north and south aisle, and a chancel: at the west end of the nave is a round tower with five bells. It is remarkable that when the Domesday book was written

there were several towns in the hundred of Yaxham which have been destroyed many centuries past, viz. Flockthorp, Calveley, Bicherston, Appethorp, Baske-nea, Oeslea, &c.

From Yaxham a road leads through Westfield, an inconsiderable village, to SHIPDAM, another village about three miles from the road.

On the foundation of the see of Ely it seems the manor of Shipdam was assigned to the bishop, and made part of his barony; and in the 29th of Henry III. the bishop obtained the grant of a market and a fair here. The church is a respectable pile, with a very broad nave and chancel, and a north aisle running the length of both; at the west end of this is a strong square embattled tower, containing five bells, a dial, and clock, crowned with a handsome turret. The chancel contains several gravestones for the family of the Bullocks. In 1487 the Bishop of Ely granted 40 days indulgence to all who would contribute to the repair of the chapel of St. Thomas of Canterbury, situated in a certain hermitage within this parish, and the ways that lay about it.

SCARNING is only separated from Dereham by a small rivulet, and was at one period so plentiful as to be called the "land of Canaan flowing with milk and honey," being occupied by a number of hospitable persons of the class of yeomanry, or freeholders, who lived on their own landed estates, consisting chiefly of rich pasture ground; most of which has since been converted into arable land.

Here the manor of Scarning Hall was possessed by the family of De Fransham, who in the third year of Edward I. held here and in Fransham Magna one fee of the Earl Warren. The church of Scarning is a single pile without aisles, and has a strong square tower of flint-stone, about 75 feet high, containing five good bells; and here is a free-school well endowed.

WENDLING lies on the high road, four miles from Dereham. In the time of the Confessor it belonged to the Abbot of Bury. Wendling Abbey was founded here about the fifty-second year of Henry III. by Sir William de Wendling, one of the king's judges or justices, for canons of the Premonstratensian order, or that of St. Norbert, and dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. This abbey was seated in a marsh or low ground, with a small rivulet on the south: the entrance into the abbey court was on the west, but the court was on the north side of the conventual church and churchyard, both those occupying about two acres of ground. The old church, with the presbytery or chancel, was about 72 paces in length and eighteen broad, including the north and south aisles. Part of the wall of the west end of the church was lately standing, covered with ivy, though the greatest part of the church, even the foundation stones, have been dug up and used for mending the roads. The abbey of Wendling was suppressed by a bull of Pope Clement previous to the general dissolution, and in 1528 granted to Cardinal Wolsey for the erection of his colleges. Its revenues were valued at 55*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* per annum. The present church has a square steeple, but contains no monuments or inscriptions of peculiar note.

EAST and WEST BRADENHAM lie to the left of Wendling. The first of these villages in the Conqueror's survey is said to have belonged to a Saxon lady of the name of Ailid in the Confessor's time, but afterwards became the lordship of Ralph Bainard. Blomefield notices a spring that rises in this town, which, forming a little rivulet, passes North and South Pickenham, Cressingham Magna, Hilburgh, &c. and empties itself into the Great Ouse by Helgey Bridge, which nevertheless bears no name till it is joined with other streams. Below Cranwich it is called the Wissey. The church of East Bradenham consists of a

nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel built of flint, stones, &c. The vault of the nave is supported by octangular pillars, forming eight arches, four on each side. At the west end of the nave a gallery has been erected for the singers. A square tower is formed of the same materials as the church, and contains three bells. A room over the porch of the north aisle seems to have been built for a recluse.

West Bradenham. The church here consists of a nave, a north and south aisle, all built of flint: the roof is supported by pillars, composed of four pilasters united together. There are four of these arches on either side, with a window over each. A square tower of flint stands at the west end of the south aisle, with quoins and battlements of freestone, and contains three bells. The lower part of the tower, being open, serves as a porch. The chancel is separated from the nave by an ancient screen of wood, upon which the king's arms have been painted. On the pavement, towards the west end, lies a very antique marble gravestone, deprived of its brasses: its inscription was between two fillets of brass round the verge of the stone. In a niche, like a quatrefoil, was the head of a priest in brass, and a cross runs the length of the stone, with some animal couchant at its feet. The inscription, which is only legible in part, appears to have been upon Thomas Cayley, rector here, in the reign of Edward I.

Against the south wall of the chancel, near the east end, are three arches, with seats for the bishop, priest, and deacon; each of these rise above the other, and just over the uppermost is an arch for holy water. In the north wall is another arch, neatly carved, for the preservation of relics. These arches and cupboards formed what are called the *tabernacula*, or repositories, where the holy oil, chrism, eucharist, &c. were deposited. Here were two chantries, Curtis's and St.

Catherine's, the priests belonging to which officiated daily, one at the east and the other at the west end of the south aisle.

HOLM HALE lies about two miles to the west of the Bradenhams. Holm and Hale formerly were not only two distinct lordships, but two separate villages; but upon their union under one lord, they obtained the name of Holm Hale.

BERRERS, or BURES HALL, was purchased of the Bedingfields by the Eyre family; no manor or lordship belongs to it. Here were also two churches to which the lords presented. In the beginning of Edward I., Sir Robert de Hulmo was patron, and the rector had a manse with thirty acres. The building of the church of Holm Hale commenced in the reign of Richard the Third, and was several years in hand. The tower was not finished in 1435, though begun in 1431. The church is a lofty pile of flint and boulder; the roof is of oak, supported by effigies of priests, which have been destroyed. The tower, very large and strong, is ornamented with quoins and battlements, and contains six large bells. The chancel is separated from the nave by an ancient screen. Several of the Eyres family are buried in this church.

HOUGHTON lies about a mile to the southward of Holme. This village is situated on a rising ground, with a rivulet running between that and North Pickenham. At the Conquest it became the lordship of Alan, Earl of Richmond, and Ribald, Lord of Middleham in Yorkshire. The church is a small single building of flint, in length about 27 feet, and 18 in breadth. The tower is composed of flint and brick, and is of a square form. At the east end of the nave is the chancel, separated by a gable or wall near a yard thick, through which an arch, about 12 feet high, and six in breadth, leads into the chancel, which

seems much more ancient than the body and tower, and is about 26 feet in length.

Leaving Great and Little Fransham, places of no importance, we rejoin the road at

NECTON. Here is Sparham Hall, and formerly a free chapel belonged to this lordship, called Sparham Chapel, endowed with the tithes of the woods and manors of Necton and Sparham. It appears that one Richard, janitor or porter to the monks of Castle Acre, gave by deed to them Gervant, his villein of Necton, in the presence of Stephen, parson of this place, Roger le Strange, &c. Humphrey Necton, educated among the Carmelites at Norwich, who flourished in 1259, was created D.D.: he was a great writer, and read lectures long after he resided among the friars of his own order at Cambridge. He was chaplain to William de Lude, Bishop of Ely; but in his latter days retired to his own convent at Norwich, and was buried there in 1303. The church of Necton, dedicated to All Saints, is a beautiful and elegant structure of flint, &c. with a lofty tower; consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle: the roof of the nave is of oak, curiously worked and embellished; angels, with their wings expanded, support the principals. Under these, on pedestals, stand the twelve apostles, carved in oak, about four feet in length, painted and gilt, bearing in their hands the instruments of their martyrdom. Six of these are placed on the north side of the nave, with the effigies of our Saviour in the midst, with an orb and a cross in his hand. On the south side are the other six, with the Virgin Mary in the midst, and St. John the evangelist on her right hand, and below these are several bishops, also raised upon pedestals. The pulpit is of oak, handsomely carved and ornamented, and the reading-desk stands on a gravestone of grey marble, having a portraiture and a plate of

brass, so covered as not to be legible. Another grey marble lies in the cross passage near the south aisle, half concealed by the adjoining seats, and on this are the representations of a man and his wife, in brass, with a Latin inscription. In the churchyard, south of the church, is an ancient tomb raised on freestone, and upon that a thick cover of stone, in the form of a coffin, with the effigies of a lady in an antique dress carved upon it, but without any shield or inscription. Here is, however, a tradition that a certain lady, in ancient times, going on a pilgrimage to Walsingham, died in this parish, and desired to be buried here, leaving them a considerable estate, which they enjoy to this day. The Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, being lords of Necton, and patrons of the church, Blomefield conjectures it was also built by one of that family; and a lady of that name lying in the chancel, he thinks it highly probable the tomb in the churchyard was erected to some female of that family. Dugdale says, that Isabel, Countess of Warwick, by her will, dated 1439, gave her tablet with the image of our Lady, having a glass for it, to be offered to our Lady of Walsingham; as also her gown with wide sleeves, and a tabernacle of silver, resembling that of our Lady of Caversham. This lady, Blomefield supposes, might have her jointure and die here, as did the Lady Philippa, wife of Guy de Beauchamp. In 1396, a chapel was founded by Lady Maud, on the north side of the chancel of this church, and dedicated to St. Mary and St. Catherine, for a chantry priest to officiate there daily. This chantry priest was a secular: he had a mansion-house assigned him in Necton, and was enjoined residence; he had a cup, weighing 20s. to officiate with, and a missal given him by the prior of Cokesford. Lady Maud's chapel is still remaining, at the east end of the north aisle. We find that Marshall, one of the chantry priests, got a dispensation

from the bishop to excuse his residence at Necton three months in every year, on account of the poverty of the place. Ambrose Irbie, the last chantry priest here, had, at the time of the dissolution, a pension of 3*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* per annum, which he enjoyed in 1553.

Here is Necton Hall, the seat of W. Mason, esq.

NORTH PICKENHAM lies about two miles to the south of Necton. From Domesday Book, it appears, that part of this village was a little lordship or hamlet belonging to the king's manor of Sporle. Osbert Pickenham, D.D. was bred a Carmelite at Lynn, and was a writer of some note in Edward the Second's reign, being also prior of the Carmes or white friars, near Fleet-street, London, where he was buried about the year 1330. Pickenham church is built of flint stone, &c.: the nave is about 42 feet in length, and near 30 in breadth. On the north side of the nave is a small chapel. Pickenham formerly contained a hermitage with a chapel, dedicated to St. Paul, held by John Caius, M.D. in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary.

We now turn from North Pickenham, and passing Coral House, rejoin the road at Swaffham.

SWAFFHAM. The lordship of this town was long in the hands of the Earls of Richmond, and the market granted here, about the 17th of King John, was confirmed to Peter de Savoy, Earl of Richmond, uncle to Queen Eleanor, wife to King Henry III. and lord of the town, as were also two fairs, held annually.

Swaffham is very pleasantly and healthfully situated on a rising ground, in a fine open country, on the high road from Lynn to Norwich: here is a good weekly market, held on Saturdays. The last return of the houses was 474, and the inhabitants 2350. Several streets branch off from the principal one, towards the north and south. Most of the houses, particularly those in the market-place, are handsome.

Swaffham has been famed for its great butter market, formerly holden at Dereham. The general quarter-sessions are held here, by adjournment, from the city of Norwich. The principal charity is a free school. For the accommodation of the inhabitants, a new assembly-room was erected on the west side of the market-hill, some years since. The cross was erected by Lord Orford. This town stands so high, that some of the wells are 150 feet deep.

The church was begun about the end of the reign of Edward IV., but not completed till that of Henry VII. It is built in the form of a cathedral; having a nave, north and south aisles, chancel, and two transept chapels, completing the form of a cross. It is a very handsome building: the tower-steeple is particularly light, well proportioned, and elegant, surmounted by a neat turret erected in 1777. The whole is built with free-stone, flint, and brick, and covered with lead. The upper part of the nave is coped and embattled; in which there is a clock and eight bells. Above the water-table and under the battlements are two shields; in one of which are the cross keys, and in the other, two swords across, the emblems of St. Peter and St. Paul, to whom the church is dedicated. The tower, begun in 1507, is surmounted with enriched embrasures and purfled pinnacles. Over the doors are several niches for images. From the west door to the entrance into the chancel is about forty-one yards; and the breadth of the nave, with the two side aisles, is about seventeen. The vaulted roof and the side aisles are supported by fine slender pillars, each consisting of four pilasters conjoined, forming fourteen handsome arches, seven on a side, above which are twenty-six clerestory windows. The oaken roof is extremely beautiful; being neatly wrought, and carved with figures of angels, bosses, &c. The windows were formerly charged with stained glass, some of which remains.

The north aisle and steeple of this church were, according to tradition, built by a tinker, or travelling chapman; and what seems to strengthen this assertion, there formerly was the picture of him, with his wife and three children, in every window of the aisle. In this aisle a large and lofty gallery has been erected for the singers; and the ascent was by a stone staircase in the adjacent wall, which probably led to the adjoining rood-loft. The arches of the chancel of the west end are very grand and spacious, rising almost to the summit of the roof of the church. Some of the pews are curiously carved; and in the library a fine missal is preserved. Here are some handsome monuments, especially an altar tomb, with an effigy of John Botewright, D.D., who was master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, chaplain to King Henry the sixth, and a native and rector of this parish. On the monument are four shields: one contains three cups, each having the sacramental wafer on the margin; a second has a triangle, emblematic of the Trinity; a third bears three boats, or barges; and the fourth displays three wimbles, or augers. The former represent the office and faith of the deceased; and the latter allude to his name, Botewright.

Formerly the Earls of Richmond had a prison in the town; and the heath on the west side of it is used as a race-course. In Swaffham parish, much in this direction, about half a mile on the Lynn road, there used to be a hamlet called Stow, and Guthlakes Stow, from a chapel there, dedicated to St. Guthlac. This place was afterwards corruptly called Good Luck's close. The chapel was standing in 1464.

With respect to the story of the tinker of Swaffham, the judicious historian of Norfolk observes, "It is somewhat surprising to find such considerable persons as Sir William Dugdale, Sir Roger Twysden, &c. to patronize or credit such a monkish legend and tradi-

tion, savouring so much of the cloister; and that the townsmen and neighbourhood should also believe it. I shall therefore endeavour to clear up this trite story. The seat of the pedlar, observed by Dugdale, in his time, to be in the north aisle, was taken down, with others, some years past, when the greatest part of the church, with the east end of the said aisle, were new seated and pewed in a modern way; but in the north transept chapel, there is now a patched piece of wood work collected out of the fragments of ancient stalls and seats, and here united. On the lower part of this work is this inscription, *Orate pro animabus*; and near the top, *Johannis Langman *** Katerine ****. This part, no doubt, belonged to some seat made at the charge of John Langman, who appears, from an ancient MS. of this church, called the Black Book, to have been a considerable benefactor to it. In the middle of this work, and between the inscriptions, is twice represented the effigies of a man as busied in his shop, with the mark of an I and C conjoined near it; probably for John Chapman and Catherine, his wife; and the figure of a woman is also carved in two places looking over the door of a shop. This work is supported on each side by the heads of the founder's seat, on both which, near the summit, is a pedlar, carved, with a pack upon his shoulders, and below him, near the bottom, a figure, which is commonly said to be a dog; but from his being muzzled, and a chain running across his back, is much more likely to prove a bear; and so it seems to be in the window of the north aisle. The uppermost window but one of this aisle is now the only one where the effigies are remaining; but here they are represented in two places in a suppliant posture, with close round purple gowns, turned up, and robed with fur, tintured *or*. The man has a rich pilgrim's purse, or pouch, hanging from a curious belt or girdle, and a little dagger; and from the right side of

the woman hangs a string or lace, at the end of which is something very like to the shield and arms of the ancient family of the Knevets in Norfolk; but, I believe, nothing more than a buckle: behind her heels kneels her son, in a close blue gown, furred *or*; there were two more children behind him, but they are broken and lost. At the bottom of the window, this fragment of an inscription now remains:

Fenestre ad Dei et Sanctorum ejus gloriam.

Over the head of a man, in one pannel, as a label:

Petite Petre—quoque Paule Beate.

That the north aisle of this church was founded by John Chapman, who was churchwarden in 1462, is beyond dispute; but that the founder was a pedlar, is very improbable; for the richness of his habit, &c. shews that he was a person of real distinction: now, had this Chapman been really a pedlar, it would have been more commendable to have had a portraiture suitable to his calling (as is the picture of the pedlar, who was a benefactor to the church of St. Mary, Lambeth, in Surrey). If the carved work was designed to perpetuate the memory of his low degree, the affectation of a dress on the glass so much superior to his station, being of a piece with other benefactors in the windows, men of estate and worth, must be ridiculous to his own times, and frustrate the very end and intent of the carving, by shewing posterity that he was a man of figure and fortune. The truth of the case seems to be no more than this: the figures of a pedlar, and a man and woman busied in their shop, were, according to a low taste in that age, designed, in a modest manner, to set forth the name of the founder, Chapman, a trader, or dealer. The word chapman, for a trader, is of great antiquity, and pedlars are often called by that name, even to this day, by some ancient people: such

rebusses are frequently met with in old works." Mr. Blomefield then adds the example of John Botewright, D.D., whose monument has been already described.

In Botewright's time, he also observes, nothing was more usual than the manner of transmitting to posterity the names of founders, benefactors, and persons interred, by way of rebus: thus, in the chapel of St. Erasmus, at Westminster, built by Abbot Islip, are many such devices, alluding to his name; as one slipping boughs from a tree; an eye, with a slip of a tree; a youth slipping from the bough of a tree, with a label in his mouth, "I slip." And in the organ-loft of Peterborough church, which was the old rood-loft, is a tun, on that a kirk or church, and on this the bird called the robin, only to express the founder, Robert Kirkton, who had also been abbot.

Staveley, in his History of Churches, has observed, that few of our parochial country churches have any remarks or memorials left of their particular founders, or the time of their building; and assigns this as the reason,—that the modest and pious founders built these fabrics generally out of pure devotion, and would not, in any case, sound a trumpet before their own performances. But the fact is, our ignorance of the contrary is owing to the great length of time; the many alterations that have been made in the churches themselves, and the great disorder and confusion that have happened, have not only defaced and ruined the records and evidences, but even the marble stones and brasses, which would have given us a clear light. The Romish clergy never enjoined silence on these occasions; they were prodigal of their indulgences here; and such benefactors and their posterity were entitled to, and often had most solemn pardon granted them to the last, for many centuries. They eternalized the memory of the founders, and commemorated them annually, and kept their solemn *obits*: this it was that excited the inha-

bitants of townships, villages, &c. to contribute. Plays also were frequently acted to raise money, which were not only pleasing to the ear, but likewise satisfying to the belly. On these obits, gaude-days, days of commemoration, &c. their chief study was to excel each other; and thus they made the profuseness and vanity of their entertainments a mark of their zeal and devotion. Other reasons that make against the pretended modesty and humility of many of these founders of churches may be drawn not only from old rebusses and allusions to the names of these people, but from the list of every particular benefactor, which every church possessed as well as that of Swaffham, which was read at stated times, and answered almost all the purposes of a modern advertisement.

Besides the parish church of Swaffham, and the chapel of St. Guthlac, here was a free chapel dedicated to St. Mary, which was well endowed by John de Britannia, Earl of Richmond, in the thirty-second year of Edward I. Swaffham was the birthplace of brother John de Swaffham, D. D. of Cambridge, a carmelite or white friar of the monastery at Lynn, where he was educated. He was allowed to be a man of great learning; but employed it in a very strenuous manner against Wickliffe, whose doctrines he controverted in a book written against them. He was made Bishop of Bangor, by Pope Gregory XI. He lived in 1394, and was extremely active at the council of Stamford, called to oppose the disciples of Wickliffe.

Swaffham is famous for its coursing matches, meetings of the gentry being held here for that purpose.

SPORLE lies about a mile and a half to the north-east of Swaffham. This town was among the royal demesnes in the time of Edward the Confessor, who gave it to Ralph Earl of Norfolk, by whom it was forfeited by his rebellion against William the Conqueror; and at the great survey it was managed and held for

that king by Godric, who also held Sporle manor for that monarch, and it remained in the crown till Henry I. gave it to Baldwin de Bosco, or Bois, from whom it devolved to the Pastons, and other families. In the parish of Sporle, south of the town, Blomefield observes, "is a farm, or hall, corruptly called Petygates, for Petygards, the name of a family that anciently possessed it." The church of Sporle is a lofty and spacious building of flint, &c. dedicated to the Virgin Mary: it has a nave, a north and south aisle, covered with lead. At the west end of the nave stands a tower of flint, with quoins and embattlements of freestone, containing three bells. To this has been annexed a large porch embattled with freestone, and over that a room, probably for some anchorite or recluse, which has been uncovered and in ruins for several years past. The old Gothic font here is supported by nine pilasters, and on the pavement lies a stone in memory of Thomas Prettyman, gent., who died Oct. 15, 1724, aged 39; and a second for another Thomas Prettyman, gent., who died in 1716, aged 72. In the chancel, which was tiled, are several gravestones; and on the north side of this is a little chapel, separated from the north aisle by a screen: at the east end of this is an ascent to an altar; and on the pavement are several gravestones, deprived of their brasses. This is supposed to be the chapel of St. Mary. Near the church of Sporle stood the priory, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin; but by whom founded is not known, though it is generally thought to have been King Henry II., who was earl of Anjou; and this was a cell to the monastery of St. Florence, at Saumers, in the diocese of Anjou. The last prior upon record was Thomas de Methelwold, a monk of Castleacre, in 1384. This priory was dissolved in the parliament held at Leicester, in the second year of Henry V., at which parliament all the alien priories throughout England were dissolved, and given

to the king and his heirs for ever · but as few of these lands were alienated at this time to the laity, till the general suppression of monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII., but were for the most part continued in the church ; so this priory, with all its dependencies, were given by Henry VI. to his college of Eton, in which it has continued.

SOUTHACRE lies rather more than two miles to the north of Swaffham. This ancient village, as well as Castleacre and Westacre, are, in Domesday Book, written singly *Acra*. In the Confessor's time it was held by a freeman, and at the survey belonged to Earl Warren, held of him by Wimer, the supposed ancestor of the Harsick family ; as Sir Eudo de Harsick held this lordship of Earl Warren about the reign of Henry I. by the service of castellan, or keeper of his castle at Acre, or Castleacre, in which office Eudo, his son, succeeded him : he died in 1179. Sir Eudo, the son of the latter, was a considerable benefactor to the monks of Castleacre, giving them lands to repair their mill here, called Witemill, and the pool, with that of Newmill. In the reign of Henry V. Roger Harsike, who was then a knight, was one of those 20 lances, gentlemen of ancient coat armour, who were returned to serve the king in the wars of France.

The site of the Old Hall, the seat of the Harsicks, stood in a close, north-east of the church, near the river. It had been moated round ; but the site has long been covered with wood and bushes. Opposite to this manor-house stood a free chapel, founded by the Harsicks, for their private use. The eldest branch of this family was extinguished in Sir Roger, who was the tenth knight, in a regular descent, according to these old lines :

“ Three Eudos first ; then Alexander brave ;
Sir Roger next the line of Harsycks save ;
Four Johns succeed, and knighted every one ;
Sir Roger dropt the line for want of son.”

The church of Southacre is dedicated to St. George : it has a nave, a north aisle, and a chancel ; with a tower at the end of the nave, built with flint, stones, and boulder, and covered with lead : the nave has a good roof of oak, also covered with lead. At the west end is a large Gothic font, with an oaken cover, raised and carved ; and round this an *orate*, in the form of an inscription, for the soul of the donor, who was rector of this church. The pavement of the nave formerly contained a stone to the memory of Reginald de Harsick, rector here, having a staff carved on it. In a window on the north side of the nave, over the arch that joins the chancel, were formerly the effigies of three saints ; but the feet only have been left for many years past. In one pannel was St. Roche : here was a shield under him ; but, though broken, the name *S'cus Rochus* is still legible. At the upper end of one of the aisles is a chapel, separated by a screen of wood ; and on the east side of this chapel, on the north wall, a tombstone raised about a foot and a half from the ground, on which lie the effigies of a knight-templar, in his military vest, cross-legged, his hands conjoined at his breast, with a great broad belt and sword, and a lion couchant at his feet, all of stone. There is no inscription or arms ; but the monument is most probably in memory of the first Sir Eudo Harsick, as it is evidently of great antiquity. The templars were habited in white, and their uppermost garment was of red cloth, with a cross pattee on their left shoulder ; and to show that they were not ashamed of the doctrine of the cross, they are portrayed and carved with their legs forming a saltire cross, in armour, and their sword hanging from a broad belt buckled over their vest, or inward habit, as in this monument. Sometimes they are represented in armour, with their hands forming the same cross, having something like a rope twisted close about their limbs, with swords in their hands,

and sometimes a plain long staff, with a cross pattee on the head. This is called the Chapel of the Assumption of our Blessed Lady; and in a window here were the effigies of Sir John Harsick, the founder, in complete armour, on his knees, and hands conjoined. Near him were those of his lady on her knees, and at her left hand, her arms in a winged shield. The eastern part of this chapel was taken in and fenced with iron rails by the Barkham family, who made it their burial-place, and have a vault here.

At the east end of this chapel, against the north wall, is a rich and stately altar monument of marble and alabaster, ornamented with death's heads, bones, &c. in basso relievo; on this rests a black marble slab, supported at each corner by a column of the same marble, of the Doric order. On this slab lies a mat, or base of alabaster, curiously carved; and on that lie the statues of Sir Edward Barkham and his lady, in their full length and proportions, in alabaster. Sir Edward is in armour; but what is incompatible with this, is his scarlet gown, and golden chain about his neck, as lord mayor of London, over his armour; so that the statuary was of the same opinion with the Roman orator, *Cedant arma togæ*: he has also a book in his right hand, and rests his head on a cushion. His lady is in a dress agreeable to the age she lived in; her hands across, and resting her head upon a cushion. At the head and foot of this monument her two sons and three daughters are represented kneeling on cushions; and to this a wall-piece of the same materials belongs, on the summit of which is a shield, and under it this motto; *Diligentia Fortunæ Mater*: on each side of this is a figure; that on the right hand representing Victory with a laurel crown in her right hand; the figure on the left is a skeleton representing Death. This monument has been adorned by several banners and streamers; but has neither epitaph nor inscription.

This Sir Edward Barkham was lord mayor of London in the nineteenth year of James I., and was the son of Edward Barkham, esq. of Southacre.

The church has a little, low, square tower of flint, with quoins and battlements of free-stone, containing three bells, the second of which is dedicated to St. John. The chancel is separated from the nave of the church by a wooden screen, erected at the charge of Sir Edward Barkham: in the middle of the area lies a marble stone, and on the upper part of it, on a brass plate, is the portraiture of the Virgin Mary, with the child Jesus in her arms.

Near the arch that leads into the chapel on the north side of the chancel is an old grey marble gravestone, which was ornamented with several shields and pieces of brass, all taken away; though some of them have been preserved in the church chest. In the centre of one of these stones, over one of the Harsicks, was a heart of brass, and thereon in Latin:

Lord, into thy hand I commend my spirit.

And above it:

God be merciful unto me, a sinner.

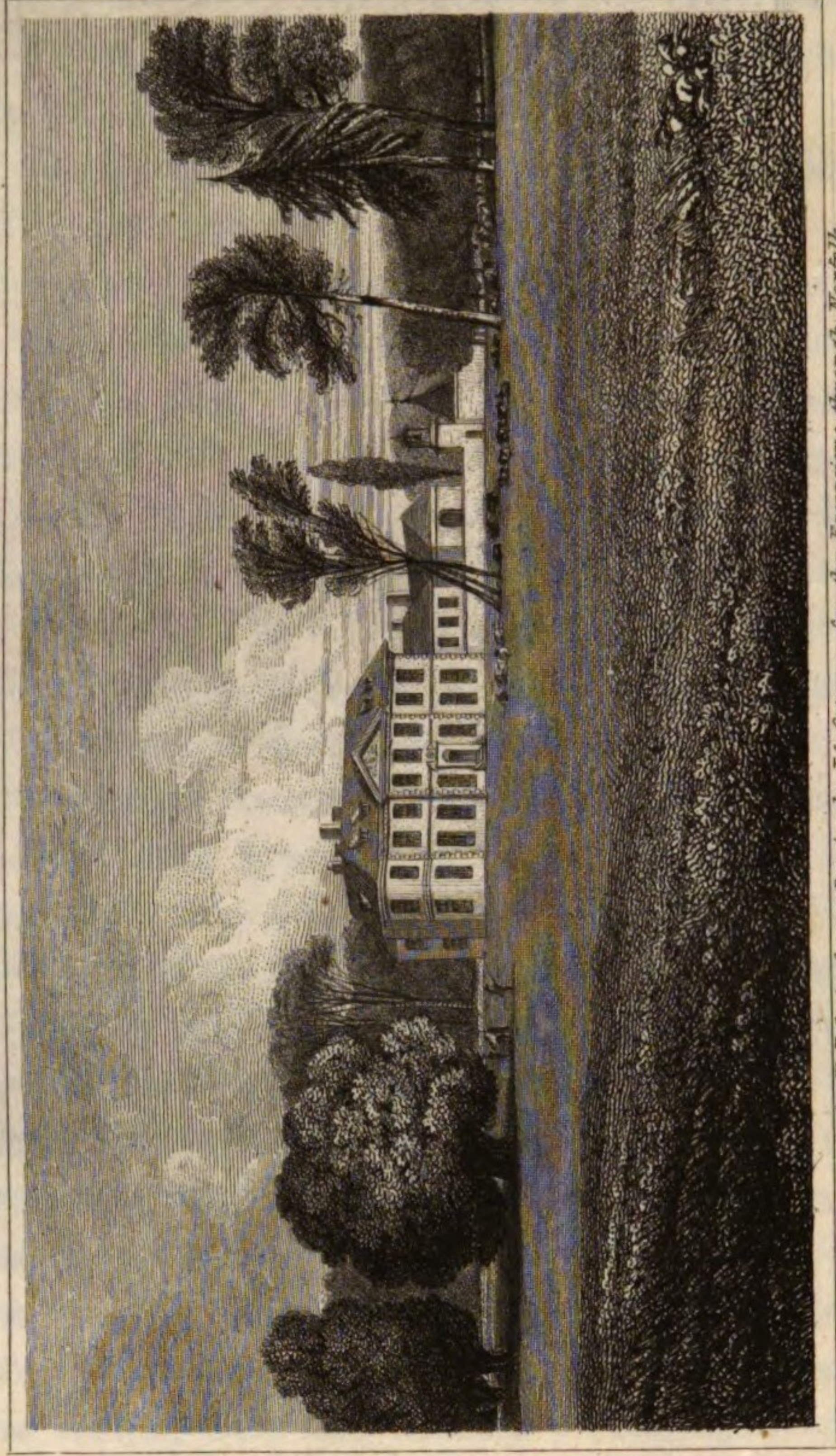
An arch in the south wall of the chancel contains the effigies of a person in complete armour, carved out of oak; but without any shield or inscription. Weever is supposed to have been under a mistake in representing this as Sir Roger Harsick, knt., who lived in the reign of Henry V., and in whom the male line ended. Blomefield thought this monument to be of greater antiquity, and rather to have been that of Sir Roger Harsick, son of Sir Alexander: and as Weever took no notice of several monuments here that were entire in his time, and only notices the one enarched, it seems he did not write from personal inspection, but took his accounts on trust.

In the parish of Southacre was a house of lepers, with a church dedicated to St. Bartholomew.

Herbert de Sudacre, or Southacre, with the consent of William, his heir, gave to the priory of Castleacre the land at Racheness, where the church of St. Bartholomew is founded for the use of the lepers there remaining. The place where the church and house of lepers stood has since been called Bartholomew Hill, and some remains of a little pedling fair, on St. Bartholomew's day, still continue.

Southacre Hall was the seat of the Barkhams, and afterwards belonged to Lord Richardson.

About a mile to the north-east is the little village of NEWTON, lying on the north side or point of the hundred, near Castleacre. In the Confessor's time, Osmond was lord; but when the general survey was made it was a royal domain, and farmed, or held of the Conqueror, by Godric. The church here is dedicated to All Saints, and has a nave with a chancel of flint and boulder; between these is a low square tower, with quoins of freestone, and a wooden cap or cupola. The passage between the nave and the chancel runs through this tower, and the staircase served for the rood-loft: there is also a south porch. This, it has been observed, is the only church in the deaneries of Cranwich and Fincham built in the collegiate or cathedral fashion. It is probable that this was built much about the same time as the old church of Westminster, erected by the Confessor; the former being a low, dark, and heavy pile: the whole length is about 67 feet, and the breadth about 16. The communion table is railed in. From Norwich Domesday-book it appears, that the rectory here had no land belonging to it, and the vicar no house but what he hired. This structure has been in a ruinous state for many years. From Newton, turning towards the road, and continuing along the northern border of the hundred, we arrive at



Engraved by E. Roberts From a Drawing by J.S. Comau. for the Excursions through Norfolk.

NORFORD HALL, *The Seat of A. Fountain Esq.*

NORFOLK.

Pub. 4 March 1812 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

NARFORD. The name of this village is obviously derived from the ford or passage over the river Nar, on the south side of which it stands. In the grand survey it is called Nereforda. Phanceon was then lord of it, being part of the manor, and held of Alan, Earl of Richmond. In the Confessor's time, Alfach, a Saxon, was the owner of it; there was then one mill, and a moiety of another, a fishery, &c.: it was a mile in length, and as much in breadth.

The Romans appear to have had a station near this place, many Roman bricks having been found about Narford-hall. The whole village, and manor of West-acre adjoining, formerly belonged to Sir Andrew Fontaine, knt., who had then his residence at the hall, which was of his own erection. This gentleman rendered himself and the place noted, by cultivating the friendship of Pope, and some other literary characters of the time when he lived. The house was not only the rendezvous of living genius, but a repository for works of art and learning.

Besides the library, pictures, bronzes, coins, ancient pieces of painted earthen ware, &c. here is a large collection of old china, several pieces of which were painted by Raffaele; among this are two very large cisterns of fine form and execution, measuring three feet by eighteen inches. The founder of this elegant structure and repository for the arts was made Knight of the Bath, by patent, during the reign of George I. in the year 1726, at which time he was vice-chamberlain to the Princess of Wales. He was complimented for his elegant taste by Mr. Pope; and Narford Hall, in the hands of its present possessor, Brigg Fontaine, esq. perpetuates a display of it.

There was a chapel here formerly; for many human bones, and a stone coffin, were dug up. Blomefield supposes this was the cell and chapel of a hermit, as

they generally chose their station near some frequented road or passage over some river.

Blomefield mentions only two or three houses in this village besides the hall; but that it was considerable in the reign of Edward III. appears from his grant of a market and two fairs here, to Sir Thomas de Narford; and the court-rolls of Henry VI. shew that there were then above a hundred dwelling-houses, besides a hamlet called Cuthorpe, or Cowsthorpe, situated in the meadows, towards Westacre; and mention is made of it in the 7th of Charles I.

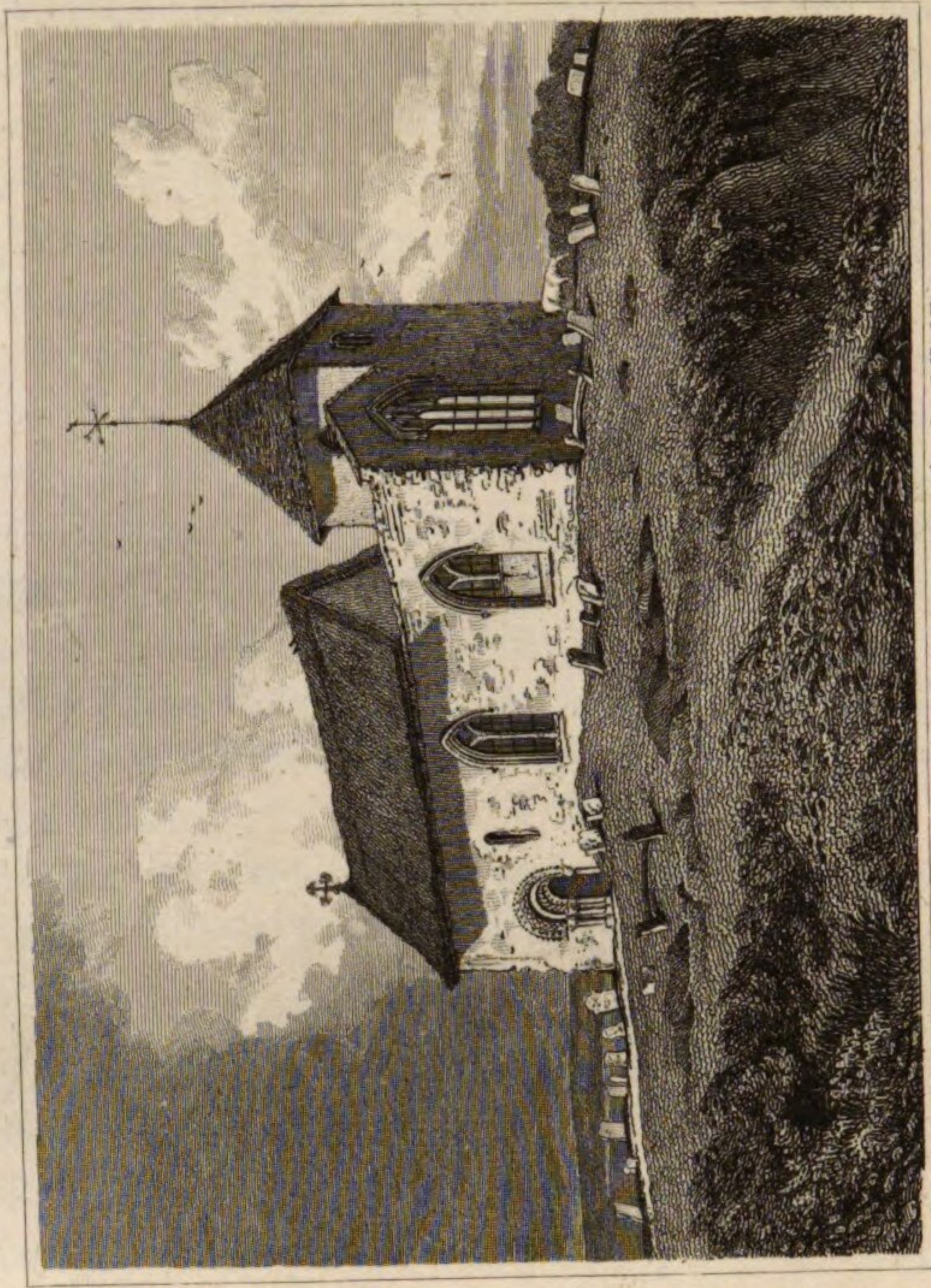
The church of Narford is a small irregular building, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel, the roof covered with lead. At the west end of the nave is a square tower, with three bells; and near this lies a grave-stone, having a cross pattee carved on the summit of a staff, the insignia of some knight-templar. Within an arch in the chancel, under the north wall, lies a marble stone with a large cross floral, erected to the memory of the founder, probably some rector or vicar of the church.

In the north aisle is this inscription to the memory of Jeffrey Brown, October 2, 1740.

A good companion and an honest friend;
Rare virtues in this age, and here they end.

We now rejoin the road at

NARBOROUGH, or NARBURGH. Like the last-mentioned place, this village derives its name from the river Nar. John Brame, in a manuscript history quoted by Spelman, in his *Icenia*, says, this was a British city in the time of Uther Pendragon, about the year 500; that it was governed by Earl Okenard; and that it was besieged seven months by Waldy, a king in the neighbourhood, who, on taking it, entirely rased it. The



Engraved by J. S. Groom from a Drawing by J. S. Groom for the Executors of the Rev. J. S. Groom

CHEDGRAVE CHURCH,

NORFOLK.

Pub. April 1839, by Longman and Co. Paternoster Row.

name is Saxon, and the works in its vicinity point out its antiquity. A large military foss, or ditch, with its rampart, runs from this place to Eastmore fen-ground; and this entrenchment well secured this side of the hundred of Clackclose. At the head of this foss, near Narburgh Hall, was a lofty artificial mound, or hill, called the burgh, serving as a fort. Several human bones and pieces of armour were found near its base in 1600, when the ground was dug up for the purpose of forming a garden for Sir Clement Spelman.

The church here is dedicated to All Saints, and has a nave, with a north and south aisle, and a chancel, built of flint. The nave is about 60 feet in length and 30 in breadth, including both the aisles. This part of the church is of much greater antiquity than the aisles or chancel, as is plain from the difference of design and workmanship. The inside is cambered and impannelled with wainscot; the mitres of these panels were ornamented with shields, many of which are remaining.

The north aisle is an additional building, of different form and workmanship from the nave, and is not above half the length of it. A common practice existed before the Reformation of thus adding aisles to the naves or bodies of churches, as may be frequently noticed in old wills. These were particular chapels or oratories, distinct from the church, and dedicated to some saint: here the founder and his family were generally buried, and chantries were frequently supported; as a priest or priests had annual pensions to officiate and sing mass for the souls departed of the founder and his family: sometimes they were founded by some society or fraternity of persons called in those days a *gild*, who also had their priests to officiate in the same manner.

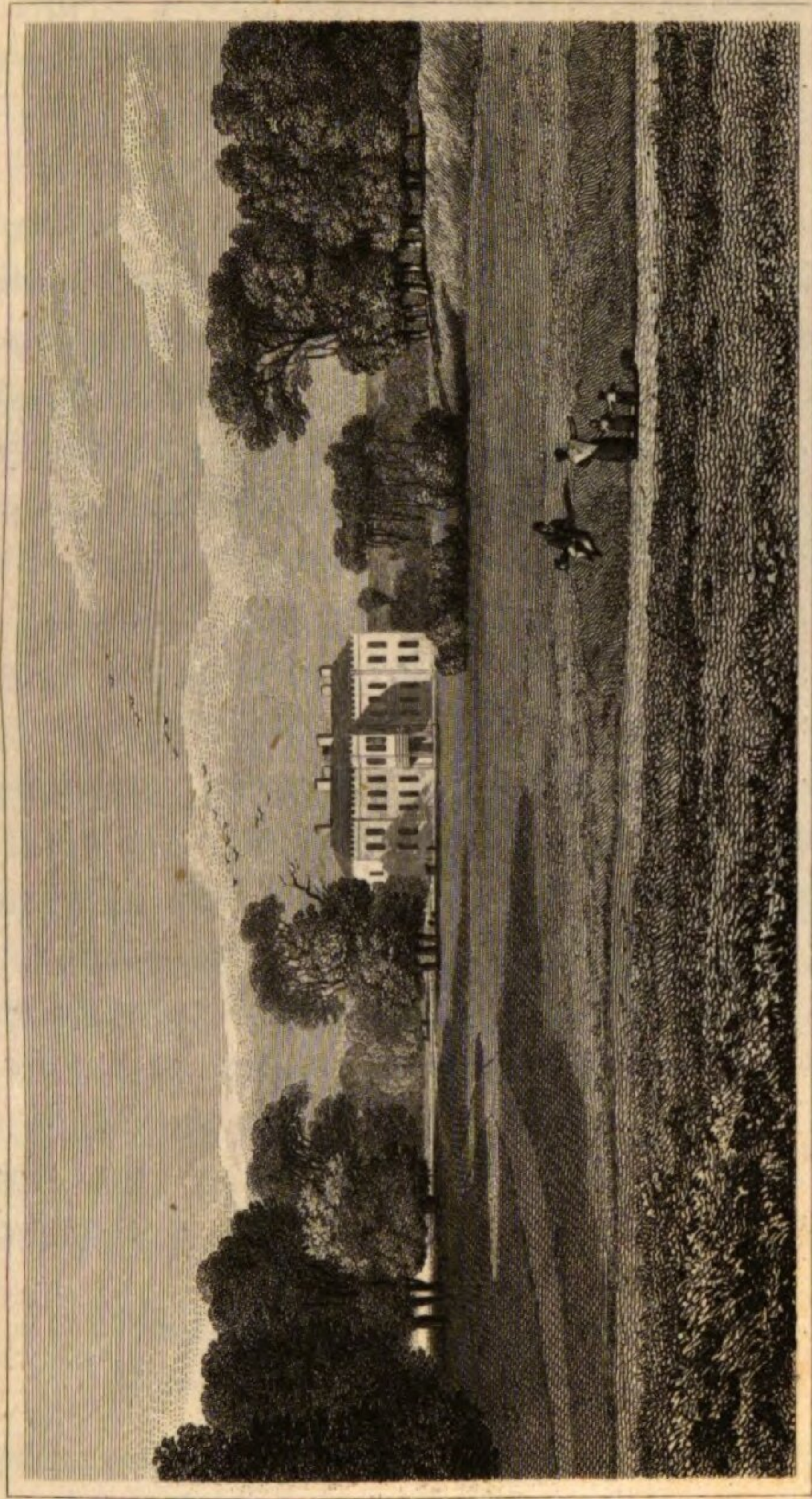
In the church of Narborough are a great number of ancient monuments, many of them to different branches of the family of Spelman. One particularly worthy of

notice is seen at the northern end of the chancel, of veined marble. The crest of the arms, over this tomb, is a woodman holding a tree plucked up by the roots, environed with a serpent.

Narborough Hall is now the seat of S. Tyssen, esq.

MARHAM, about two miles to the south-east of Narborough, is so called from a large marsh or moor near it, which being often overflowed, gives it the appearance of a mere. At the grand survey this place appears to have been the capital lordship of the church of Ely, in Clackclose hundred. The abbey manor here was held by the Earls Warren of the same church; and in the first of King John there was a suit between the Bishop of Ely, and Hamlin Plantagenet, Earl of Warren, when the earl acknowledged it to belong to the see of Ely, and the bishop granted the earl and his heirs to hold it of that see, by the service of one knight's fee; and the earl to pay 100s. rent per ann. in lands, in pure alms, for ever, to the church of Ely.

Isabel, second daughter of the sixth William, Earl of Warren and Surry, and widow of Albany, Earl of Arundel, founded a nunnery here, in 1249, for Cistercian or white nuns, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. Barbara, and St. Edmund. On the dissolution of this convent it came to the crown; and Henry VIII. conveyed it, with the site of the abbey, to Sir Nicholas Hare, knt., and John Hare, citizen and mercer of London. This nunnery stood a little westward of the present church at Marham, the road only lying between them: its site is a pasture enclosed with walls of clunch, or chalkstone. In this close is a farm-house, with large barns, &c., which seem, by their materials, to be built out of the ruins of the old abbey. Some of the walls of the abbey-church, or chapel, are now remaining. The length of this chapel, when entire, was about 99 feet, as conjectured by Blomefield; and, when he wrote, a considerable portion of the south wall, about 73 feet



Engraved by J. Webb, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

NARBOROUGH HALL.
The Seat of S. Tyson Esq.
NORFOLK.

Published by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

high, with four oval windows near the summit, was entire, and the whole foundations distinctly to be traced.

This place had two churches; that now standing is dedicated to the Holy Trinity: it has a nave, with a chancel, and south aisle, built of rag-stone, clunch, or chalk, and covered with lead. At the west end of the nave stands a lofty square tower of flint stones, with quoins, embattlements, &c. of freestone; and contains four bells. The length of the nave is about 63 feet, and, with the south aisle, nearly 30 in breadth. At the east end of the nave lie several marble gravestones, for the Shouldhams. At the east end of the south aisle is a chapel containing an altar-monument, or tomb, on which lie the statues of a man in complete armour, a lion couchant at his feet, and that of his wife, both of chalkstone, painted over. This monument was erected, in 1604, to the memory of John Steward, and his wife Ann. His arms are quartered on the summit. This family of the Stewards came into England and settled in the reign of Henry IV. Sir John Steward, who attended James, prince of Scotland, son of King Robert, was taken prisoner, with that prince, on the sea-coast of Norfolk. Sir Robert Steward, of this family, is said to have encountered a lion in France, and his sword breaking in the engagement, he seized a staff, and with that slew the animal; for which action the King of France gave him the bearing of the lion and ragged staff, as a distinction of honour, as is testified by this distich:

*Francorum Carolus voluit sic stemmati ferri,
Singula cum valeant, sunt meliora simul.*

From this place we again turn towards the high road, and pass

PENTNEY, a village almost surrounded with water. It was held by Hagen, in the Confessor's time; but was afterwards bestowed on the first Roger Bigod.

Robert Vallibus held this place of Bigod, and founded here the priory for the soul of Agnes, his wife, and their children, and dedicated it to the honour of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Mary Magdalen. It was situated in the Isle of Eya, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustine, and was endowed with the manor of Pentney. At the time of the suppression, here was a prior, with 13 canons. Henry VIII. granted this to Thomas Mildmay, esq. auditor of the exchequer. After this it passed through various hands to — Lord, esq. of Epping, in Essex. The site of this priory is about a mile westward of the church: the gate-house, which is a curious building of freestone, is still standing, and covered with lead.

The church of Pentney was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and appropriated to the priory, and valued at 5*l.* per annum, besides the pensions.

East and West Bilney lie to the north of Pentney.

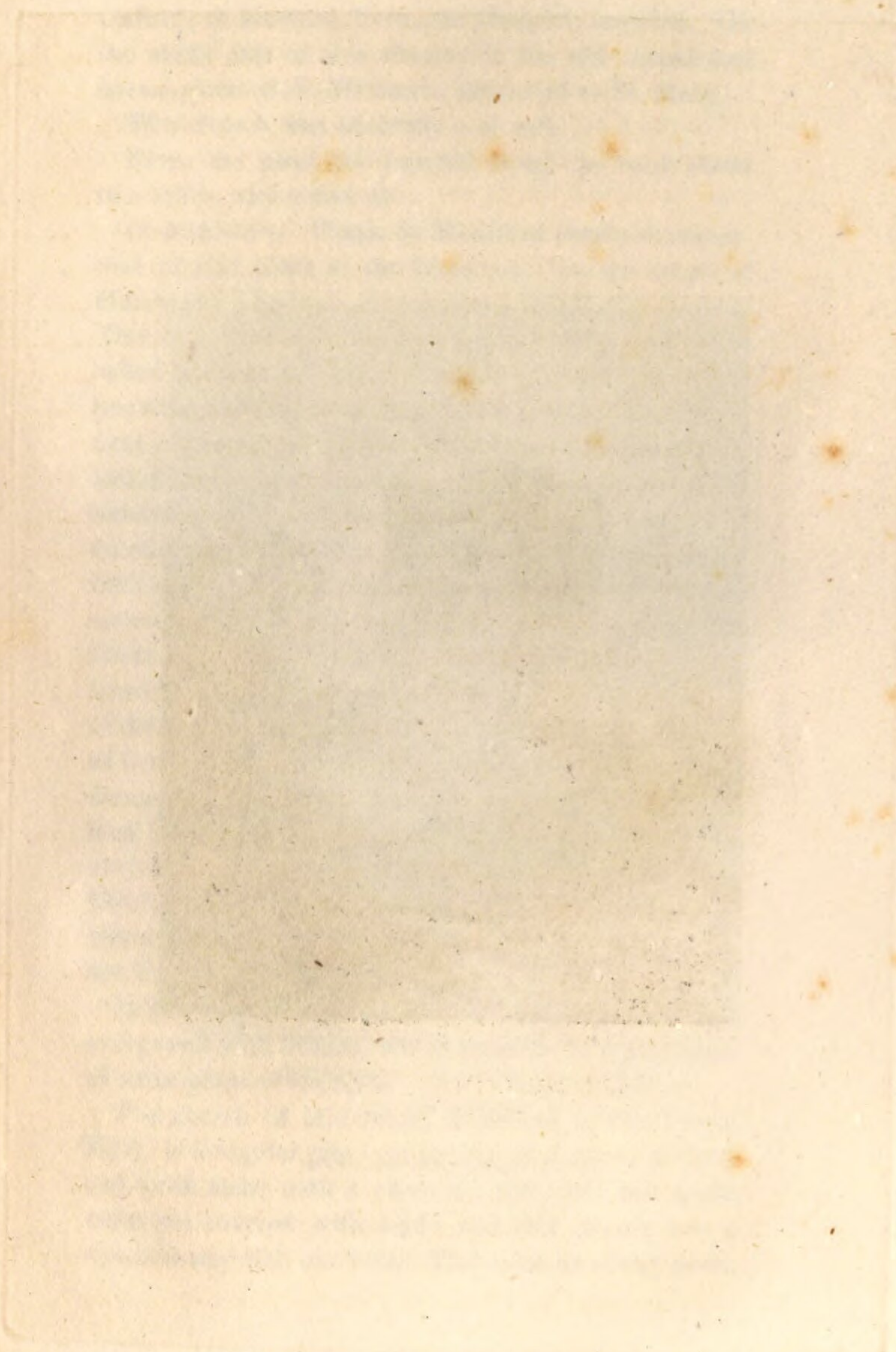
EAST BILNEY. Here was born Thomas Bilney, a learned divine of Cambridge, who was burnt at Norwich, in King Henry the eighth's reign, for preaching against the doctrines of the popish church.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a rectory.

WEST BILNEY, called in Domesday-book Benelai, in the time of Edward the Confessor belonged to Bundo, a Saxon thane. The church is dedicated to St. Cecilia.

EAST WINCH lies on the road, about a mile from West Bilney. In Domesday-book this is called Winic, from Win, which in the ancient British signified water; and from Ic, or Ise, a general name here for any stream or rivulet. The inhabitants of this part of the Heptarchy, or East Angles, were called by the Romans Icenii, and Winic, as seated in a wet meadow. At the survey, the principal lordship was in the crown; Godric farming it for the king.

The church is dedicated to All Saints. In the east window of the chancel are the arms of Vere, Earl of





Engraved by E. Roberts, from a Drawing by J.S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**MIDDLETON TOWER.
NORFOLK.**

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Oxford; of Howard, Vere, and Howard, impaled. On the north side of this chancel is the old chapel and burial-place of the Howards, dedicated to St. Mary.

This church was anciently a rectory.

From this place we proceed along the road about two miles, and arrive at

MIDDLETON. Hugh de Montford obtained possession of this place at the Conquest. In the reign of Henry II. Roger de Scales was lord of this manor. This ancient and celebrated family had a seat here, called Titherington Hall; the gateway of which is still known by the name of Middleton Castle. This remnant of ancient magnificence appears to have been the entrance to a large quadrangular building, which was moated round. It is built of brick, and has a tower of excellent workmanship, and is flanked at each angle with octangular turrets, which are embattled, and rise several feet above the central tower. The height of this tower is fifty-four feet, the length fifty-one, and the breadth twenty-seven. On a garter, in a bow-window of the story over the archway, are emblazoned the arms of Scales, &c. The inside of this structure is much decayed; the area or court within is about 84 paces long and 46 broad. From the arms, &c. Blomefield conjectures it to have been founded in the time of Henry VI. by Thomas Lord Scales, Knight of the Garter, who at this period distinguished himself in the French wars.

In the neighbourhood of this castle is a high mount, overgrown with bushes, which seems to be the remains of some place of strength.

The church of Middleton, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a regular pile, consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel; the nave and south aisles are covered with lead: and this church has a square tower with one bell. The windows of the north

aisle contain the arms of Scales, in painted glass: probably the builder of this church was a Lord Scales.

On the left of the road lies North Runcton.

NORTH RUNCTON was held by Turchetel, in the Confessor's time. The church is dedicated to All Saints, and was rebuilt about the year 1710, the old structure having been destroyed by a fall of the tower.

SETCHEY is a very small market-town in the parish of North Runcton: it is situated on the navigable part of the river Nar. King James the first granted a market here: it is held once a fortnight, on a Tuesday and Friday, for the sale of fat cattle and sheep, and is principally attended by butchers and graziers from this and the adjoining county of Lincoln. By the last returns the houses were numbered at 57, and the inhabitants at 338. From this place we continue our excursion to Lynn Regis, already described, and, crossing the ferry, arrive at

WEST LYNN. This place has been supposed by some to have been the original port or chief town, and is therefore frequently called Old Lynn: but it was only a hamlet belonging to the borough of Lynn. The church is dedicated to St. Peter.

CLENCHWARTON lies about a mile to the westward. This place, at the survey, was written Ecleeuartauna, a name bespeaking a watery situation by a river. The town was divided into north and south. The church of Clenchwarton is dedicated to St. Margaret: it consists of a single aisle or nave, and a chancel, covered with lead; and it has a square tower.

TERRINGTON is about two miles distant from Clenchwarton.

The most northern parish in this hundred extends along the banks of the Wash. This town, though very extensive in its bounds and lands, was not mentioned in Domesday-book. That this town existed in the time



Engraved by J. H. Hankinsworth from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

WEST LYNN & KINGS LYNN.

NORFOLK.

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of the Saxons appears from a grant of Godric, brother to Ednoth, abbot of Ramsey, about the year 970, who gave his lands to that foundation, on condition that Ednoth should free it from the service of *heregeat*, now called a *hariot*, which used to be paid to the lord by free heirs, after their father's decease. Here were also the manors of Dunton, Marshall, Monk, Goddards, the Bishop of Ely, the prior of Lewes, &c. The towns of Tyrington, Tylney, Walpole, Walton, and the soke of Walsoken, had the right of common and digging of turf in the marsh of West Fen; but none could sell or give any turf, without leave of all the lords who had common within its boundary. It was three miles long, and two and a half broad; and the stock was 12 cows, one bull, six hogs, one boar, and 1400 sheep, reckoning by the great hundred. Here were also two windmills, and one of the tenants had a salt-pit, or work, called Collwayneshill, paying ten *bleds* of salt. The bishop was to have two parts of the wrecks at sea, and royal fish, the prior of Lewes one part, and the finder 4*d.*; but the bishop and prior were to pay all charges. It is to be observed, that few towns in this hundred lying near the Ouse were without salt-pits or salt-works at the time of the Conquest, and afterwards.

The church of Tyrington, dedicated to St. Clement, is a beautiful spacious building of freestone, and built in the cruciform style. On the battlements of the south aisle are several shields, carved with different arms. The top of the font is made to open, and the pannels are painted with the figures of Jesus Christ and the four evangelists. The wood-work in the roof of the nave was also adorned with the representation of an anchor, the symbol of St. Clement. Here was also a chapel dedicated to St. James. The chapel dedicated to St. John, in this parish, seems to have been built in 1423; as a licence was then granted to John Belling, vicar, to build a chapel to the honour of God and the

holy cross: and, in 1428, mention is made of a pilgrimage to Tyrington St. John's. The vicar of Tyrington is to perform duty here. It is said to have been made parochial and free from the church of St. Clement, by Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1530; but it still remains a chapel to that church, being about two miles distant from it. It is a regular pile, with a nave, two aisles, and a chancel, covered with lead: a square tower with four pinnacles, and four bells, stands at the south-west corner.

TILNEY lies to the southward of the two former places, and was part of the honour of Wirmegay, the barony of the Lords Bardolf.

This town gives name to the famous common, called Tilney Smeeth, which being a remarkably fertile spot, is said to have constantly fed more than thirty thousand sheep, and all the horned cattle belonging to seven villages, although it was no more than three miles long and one broad. On King James's first coming to the crown, a courtier speaking of this piece of land to that monarch, observed, that "if over-night a wand or rod was laid on the ground, in the morning it would be covered with grass of that night's growth so as not to be discerned." To this the King is said jocosely to have replied, "that he knew some grounds in Scotland, where, if a horse was put in over-night, they could not see or discern him in the morning." One of the romantic tales related of Thomas Hickathrift refers to this plain; as he is said to have performed prodigies of valour, armed with the axle-tree of a wheel, and using the wheel itself for a shield, in defence of the common right to this land. A gravestone near the east end of the chancel in Tilney churchyard, with a cross-pattée on the summit of a staff, the emblems of a knight-templar, have been converted by the common people into the representations of the wheel, &c. he employed on this memorable occasion. A stone

coffin stood out of the ground, and though not capable of containing a body more than six feet in length, was usually shewn as having been that of this supposed giant.

This church is dedicated to All Saints, and is a large building, consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, and a chancel covered with lead. At the west end stands a square tower with pinnacles, and crowned with a spire of free-stone. At the west end of the north aisle is an old altar monument without either arms or inscription: near this, against the lowest pillar, may be observed a place for holy water; a chapel and altar having stood here. In some of the windows are remains of some apostles, St. Catharine, and the Virgin Mary with the infant Jesus.

The WIGENHALES are four contiguous parishes, lying to the southward of Tilney.

WIGENHALE IN MARSHLAND. Such have been the improvements in this part of the county, that it appears, from an ancient pleading in the year 1181, or 27th of Henry II., that there was neither any habitation or ground that yielded profit within that part of Wigenhale St. Mary Magdalen, to a place called Bustards Dole, to the south of the town, excepting the monastery of Crabhouse, but what was all waste, and of the nature of a desolate fen. Subsequent to this, divers inhabitants of the neighbourhood came, and by draining and banking gained as much by their industry as they could; and that they might securely enjoy the same, they were content to be tenants to the great men or lords of whom they held their other lands. Upon this occasion, and by common consent, was made the old *podike*, or *polder*, first raised about the year 1222. In the second year of Henry III. it appears how far the work of draining had been successful; for Hugo de Burgo, Earl of Kent, and Lord Chief Justice of England, and Eustachius, Bishop of Ely, had then a grant

or writ of seisen, of all the marsh between Wiggehale and Well Hakebeche, Tylney, and Tyrinton.

WIGENHALE ST. MARY MAGDALEN. The lordship here was in the family of Caprevill, Chereville, or Kervile. Sir Frederic de Capreville, in the beginning of Henry the third's reign, gave his tenement and manor in this town to the prior of Castleacre. The church of St. Mary Magdalen of Wigenhale is a good regular building, consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, with its porch, and a chancel; and at the west end stands a square tower of stone. The upper part of the north aisle has been a chapel, but now taken in with a skreen, as is likewise the east end of the south aisle. In the east window are the broken effigies of Pope Nicholas on his throne, and in the windows north are those of other saints. The arms of Kervile, Scales, Berney, Gessing, Heveningham, Lovel, Bovile, &c. decorate different parts of this edifice.

Crabhouse Nunnery stood on the bank of the Ouse, north of Wigenhale St. Mary Magdalen: it was appropriated to nuns of the order of St. Augustin, and dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. It was founded by Roger the prior, and the convent of Reynham. This prior granted to Læna, or Leva, a nun, and daughter of Godric de Lynne, all the small tract of ground here, called "a desert and solitary place, that was inhabited by a hermit, but not overflowed." Læna and her nuns were to hold it freely by the payment of 12*d.* per annum to the priory of Normansburgh. Spelman, in his Glossary, observes, that there were two antiphonaries in this priory in the year 1425, which cost twenty marks—a great sum in those days. The site of Crabhouse priory was granted in the first year of Queen Mary, to Sir John Gage, knt. of Sussex, with the gardens, orchard, and demesne lands.

WIGENHALE ST. MARY'S. The ancient family of Caprville, or Kervile, held the chief manor of the Lords

Bardolph, and had their residence here. At a place called Wathden, or Waterden, in this parish, Serjeant Godard observes, there was to be seen in his time some remains of a church; also bones, that appeared at a low ebb upon the river side. The old hall, or mansion-house, was a large brick building, with a good gate-house, the greatest part of which was taken down many years since. The manor of Westacre priory held considerable portions of land here. In 1428 the temporalities of this priory were valued at 14*l.* 9*s.* per annum, in land, rent, and a mill; and their spiritualities, or the appropriated rectory, at 12 marks.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a regular pile, having a nave, a north and south aisle, and a chancel. The east end is divided from the other parts by an oaken skreen, and was formerly a chapel. Here is a stately altar monument, constructed of marble and alabaster, whereon lie the effigies of a man in armour, and his lady, resting their heads on cushions, with their hands in a suppliant posture. Below them is the representation of a little girl with her hands conjoined; and by her a male infant in swaddling clothes. On one side of them is Kervile's arms; at the east end are Kervile and Plowden, in single shields. Four marble pilasters, of the Corinthian order, with gilt capitals, support an entablature of the same; and on the summit is a goat passant, &c. The windows over the arches of the nave have been curiously painted with figures of the twelve apostles, and various parts of scripture history. The seats in the nave, and both the aisles, are of oak, and carved with the figures of saints, &c. Some of these bear the arms of Kervile and Butler.

WIGENHALE ST. PETER'S. The church of this parish, and that of St. German's, stand on the east side of the river Ouse, in that part of the hundred called Freebridge citra Lynn, while those of St. Mary Magdalen, St. Mary's, &c. are situated on the west of the Ouse.

The church of St. Peter's here has very little to attract notice. On the font are two cross keys, or St. Peter's arms.

ST. GERMAN'S WIGENHALE. This parish having been, for several ages, the residence of the Wigenhales, its records mention many persons of distinguished celebrity and abilities. William de Wigenhale, or Howard, generally resided at East Winch, near Lynn, of which town he was lord. It seemed that he lived there from the thirteenth of Edward I. to the thirty-fourth of that reign. During this time, several presents were sent to him and his lady: this appears from the accounts of the chamberlain of that town, extant at present on rolls of parchment: for instance, *Item in uno carcoss bovis misso D'ne Alicie Howard usq. Wynch, 11s. viz.* for the carcase of an ox, and sending it to the Lady Alice Howard, at Wynch; wine is also set down as having been sent twice to Sir William Howard, with two calves, and a collar or shield of brawn, 13s.; two salmons are also entered as sent at Easter, 11s. In the 33d of Edward I. William de Wigenhale was made one of the justices of *trail baston*, to inquire after intruders on other men's lands, and malefactors who committed murders, burnings, robberies, or damages in houses, woods, parks, &c.; and also the receivers and abettors of them. He was knighted in or about 1278, and, being bred to the law, he became highly eminent, was retained by several persons of dignity, and by societies and corporations, from whom he had a settled annual pension. When he was one of the King's council, he gave his opinion, "that if the King should prefer the Bishop of Byblis, whom the Pope had provided for by his bull, by appointing him prior of Goldingham, in Scotland, it would be derogatory to his crown and dignity:" upon which the King sent a letter of refusal to the Pope. He was summoned, with other judges, by writ dated January 3, in the first year of Edward II. to attend at

the coronation at Westminster, on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Valentine, and died, as it is said, in the following year.

The church of St. German consists of a nave and a south aisle; and several years since the floor of this edifice was found to be at least eight feet below the high water-mark of the river Ouse. This church has a square tower, which contains four bells.

As wine (most probably of English growth) is mentioned among the presents made to the lady of Sir William Howard, in the ancient records of Wigenhale, and the price implied is extremely low, some recent observations here, upon the former state of vineyards in England, may not be irrelevant.

The invention of the thermometer and registry of temperature are of too recent a date to enable us to compare the state of the atmosphere before and after the accumulation of ice on the coast of Greenland; but there are reasons for believing, that previously to the fifteenth century, England enjoyed a warmer summer climate than since that period. It is sufficiently apparent, that at one time vineyards were very common in England, and that wine in a very considerable quantity was made from them. Tacitus states, that vineyards were planted by the Romans in Britain; and Holinshed quotes the permission given by Probus to the natives to cultivate the vine, and make wine from it. Bede notices tithe on wine, which was common in Kent, Surrey, and other counties. The records of suits in the ecclesiastical courts; the enclosed patches of ground attached to numerous abbeys, which still bear the name of vineyards; the plot of ground called East Smithfield, near the Tower of London, which was converted into a vineyard, and held by four successive constables of the Tower in the reigns of Rufus, Henry, and Stephen, "to their great emolument and profit," seem to remove all doubt on this question.

The isle of Ely was named in the early times *Isle de Vignes*, the bishop of which received yearly three or four tuns of wine for his tenth; and the spot called Vine Yard, behind the former palace or town residence of that bishop, in Holborn, nearly opposite St. Andrew's church, are additional probabilities. So late as the reign of Richard II. the little park at Windsor was appropriated as a vineyard for the use of the castle; and William of Malmsbury asserts that the vale of Gloucester, in the twelfth century, produced as good wine as many of the provinces of France. It is also remarkable, that in a park near Berkeley in Gloucestershire, tendrils of vines are found springing up yearly among the grass, from one of which a cutting is now flourishing in the garden of Sir Joseph Banks. Wine, in fact, is known to have been made in England at a much more recent period. Among the manuscript notes of the late Peter Collinson, to whom the European world is indebted for the introduction of some of its choicest plants, is the following memorandum: "Oct. 18th, 1765, I went to see Mr. Rogers' vineyard at Parson's Green, all of Burgundy grapes, and seemingly all perfectly ripe. He does not expect to make less than fourteen hogsheads of wine. The branches and fruit are remarkably large, and the vines very strong." These facts completely set aside the idea that the vineyards of England were apple orchards, and that the wine was cider.

WALPOLE lies on the side of Cross Keys Wash, and is said to derive its name from the great wall, or sea bank, raised to defend it, and from a pool or deep water near the wall. The Romish Saint Godric, according to the legends, born at Walpole, was at first a pedlar, afterwards went on a pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem, then lived as a hermit at Finchale, near Durham, where he died in the year 1170. Many miracles are ascribed to him, and his girdle is

said to have had such virtue in it, after his death, as to make barren women fruitful. Probably the monks of Durham reported thus favourably of the good disposition of Godric towards the female sex, as some indemnification for the rudeness and brutality of St. Cuthbert, of whom it is related that he would not suffer a woman to approach his shrine at that cathedral.

Cross Keys Wash is in the parish of Walpole: here to pass over to Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, it is necessary to observe the flux and reflux of the tide, from the failure of which King John, a short time before his death, lost the greatest part of his baggage. Respecting this passage we have learned that the inhabitants of Lynn, and other places, have very laudably come forward in promoting a plan for furthering a direct communication between the county of Norfolk, that of Lincoln, and the north of England, by means of a bridge over the estuary, called Cross Keys Wash. In fact, since the admirable bridge and causeway have been formed at Fosdyke Wash, this second great improvement seems a measure called for by the highest views of convenience and advantage.

At present the distance across the sands is two miles, and the channel is narrow at low water.

The church of St. Peter at Walpole is a handsome embattled structure, having thirteen clerestory windows on each side, and consists of a chancel, a nave, two aisles, the wings of which have flattened arches, and a handsome south porch, with a room over it. It was erected in the reign of King Henry VI. In the windows of the church is some excellent painted glass.

On the stone work of the south porch are the arms of Goddard and Denver, with those of Rochford, all contributors to the building of the church. In the east window of the south aisle the painted glass represented a person on his knees, with a wide belt hanging over his shoulder, containing a large broad sword: this per-

son, supposed to have been Sir Thomas Daniel, knelt before the figure of St. James, which was in the same window. Here was also an altar and the chantry of St. James. In one of the upper windows of this aisle Mr. Blomefield mentions a profane representation of the Supreme Being, habited in a loose purple gown, with a long beard, resting his right hand on a staff of gold, and crowned with glory; pointing out the forefinger of his left hand as dictating to the Virgin Mary, who is seated before him with a pen in her hand, and paper on a desk before her. The Deity stands at the door or entrance of a castle, with turrets, which is surrounded by an embattled wall. Within this wall the Virgin is again represented, with many angels looking down from the tower, &c. There has been a legend, and the word *convertit* has long remained legible. The staircase leading to the rood-loft was against an upper pillar of the nave, on the north side; and over the door was an old piece of painting of the Virgin and child, and an Orate on a scroll. The east end of this aisle is parted off by a screen, and was the chapel and burial-place of the Rochfords. On the pavement is a marble gravestone, upon which has been a large and long cross of brass, standing on a pedestal of four steps, with another cross on the head of it, and six shields, three of which are destroyed. The inscription is upon William, the son of Sir John Rochford, constable of the castle of Wisbeach, Anno Domini 1000. The ascent to the communion-table consists of many steps, under an arch, which, it seems, has been used to shelter the horses belonging to the parishioners, who, from the length and badness of the ways, were obliged to come on horseback to church. Besides the chantry of St. James, in this town, here were also those of St. Catherine, St. Edmund, and St. Thomas; but whether these were in this church, or St. Andrew's, is not clear.

St. Andrew's church is a regular well-built structure,

consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, a chancel, and a south porch, all leaded. In 1504, John Daycot, the vicar, made a will, requesting to be buried on the north side of this church, before his hall. He gave 30 stone of lead to the church-work, and a suit of vestments of white damask, branched with angels of gold, or lilypots, like the red suit in the said church, and a cow, to the parish.

Several years since a farmer who lived under the bank at Walpole, digging three feet deep in his garden, found many Roman bricks, and an aqueduct made of earthen pipes: 26 were taken up, mostly whole, though as brittle as the earth itself. Sir A. Fountain, upon inspecting them, pronounced them Roman: they were made of pale earth, hardened in the air. They were 20 inches long, three quarters bore, half an inch thick, and one end diminishing to be inserted in the other. Mr. Corey sent some to Lord Coleraine and Dr. Stukely.

Oswi, a noble Saxon, and his son Alwyn, gave Walpole to Ely. The latter, from a monk, became Bishop of Norwich. It remained with the church of Ely, until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when it came to the crown.

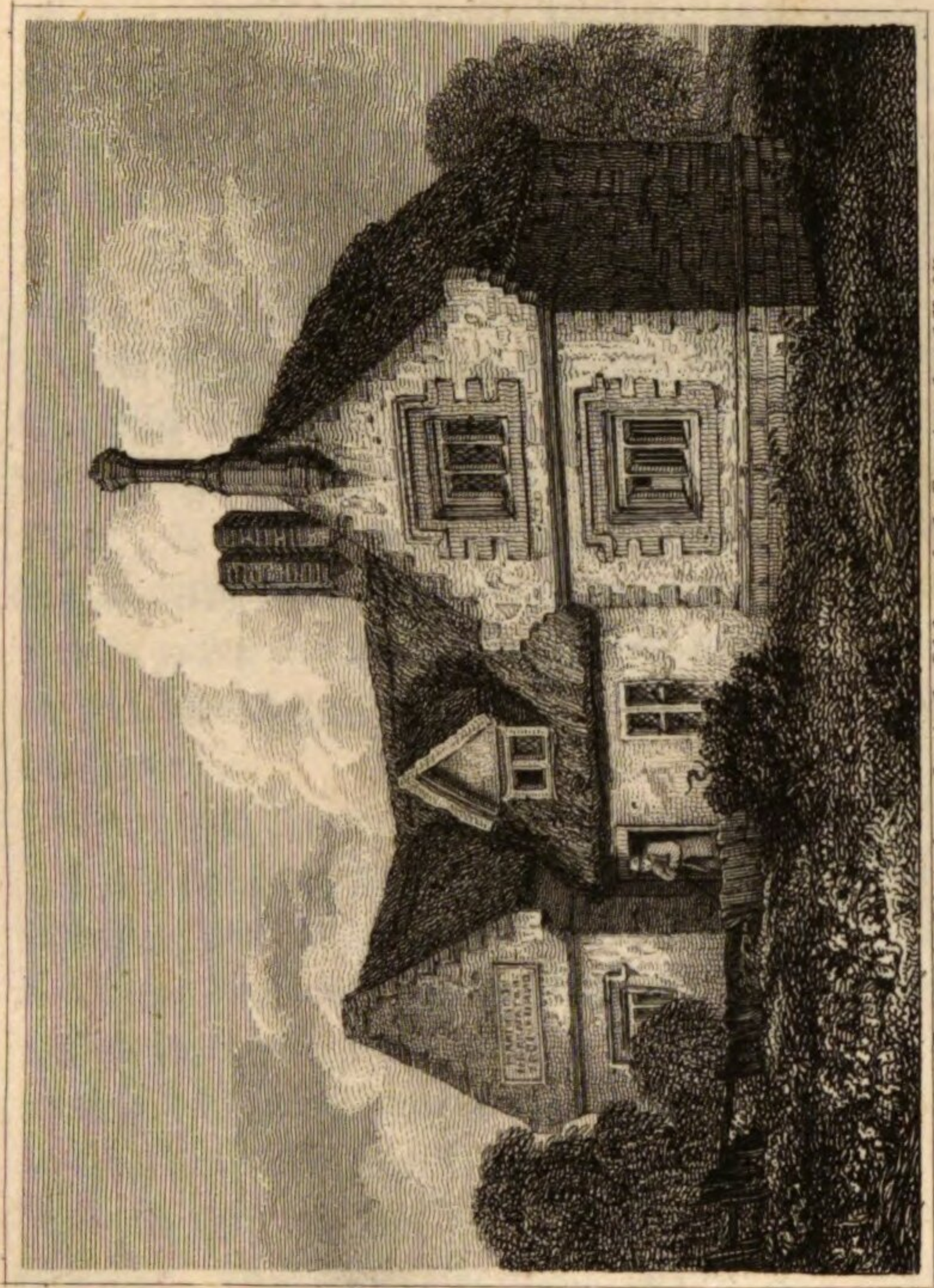
Continuing our route along the western border of the county, we arrive at

— WEST WALTON. This town is so called to distinguish it from East Walton. Some of the family of Repps, it seems, continued at West Walton from the time of the Conqueror till the year 1750. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and has a curious freestone tower, standing about 22 yards south of the structure, which contains five bells. The church consists of a nave, a north and south aisle, and a chancel; on the north side of which, a small distance from the pavement, lies a religious person in his habit, under a tabernacle, supposed to have been an abbot.

WALSOKEN is about a mile to the southward of West Walton. This place has been called Ramsey Abbots, or Popenhow Manor; because it was given to the abbey of Ramsey, in Huntingdonshire, by Ailwin, Duke of the East Angles, on his founding that monastery in 1069, by the name of five hides in Walsokne. The church of Walsoken is dedicated to All Saints, and consists of a nave, a north and south aisle, a chancel leaded, and a tower of freestone at the west end. Against the wall of the steeple, opposite the nave of the church, Solomon is represented sitting in a chair, or throne, in his royal robes, and on each side of him a large piece of painting, exhibiting the history of the two harlots, and the judgment pronounced upon them by that monarch. At the east end of the nave is David with his harp, and under it the picture of King Charles I. At a place called the *Stathe Ditch*, in this parish, was a chapel dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and a famous gild or fraternity, with a custos, or master. Surprising indulgences were granted to the brethren and sisters of this fraternity by the Popes Urban VI., Boniface IX., Martin V., Paul II., and Sixtus V. The seal of this community was oblong, having, under an arch, the representation of God the Father supporting the Saviour on the cross; below that, the custos at his devotions, with a legend, *Sigill—confrat et consoror—Trinit de Walsoken*. The hermitage of Walsoken is also mentioned in the second of Henry V. The sea-bank, from Newgate Slow to Emneth sea-dike, was three miles in length.

The only remaining village between us and Outwell, where we conclude our present excursion, is

EMNETH, or ENEMETH, so called as lying in the meads, or meadows: this is a hamlet of the parish of Elm, in Cambridgeshire; but being in Freebridge hundred, and in the county of Norfolk, it is necessarily in-



Engraved by J. Greig, from a Drawing by J. S. Gorman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**EYNETHORPE LODGE,
NORFOLK.**

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cluded in this route. Here is Hackbeach Hall: the manor-house was sold to Sir Thomas Peyton, bart. antecedent to 1628. Sir Andrew Ogard, who died at Buckenham Castle, in Norfolk, in 1454, bought the lordship of Emneth of Gilbert Holloft, baron of the exchequer, for 100*l*. Ingaldethorps manor was held by an ancient family of this name. The manor of Elm, belonging to the see of Ely, was called Bishop or Ely's Manor: that of Lovells in Elm, &c. extended into this place: to this belongs a large chapel, larger than many churches, having a nave, a north aisle, and a chancel, dedicated to St. Edmund, the king and martyr. Elm, as the mother-church, has a rector and a vicar, both in the patronage of the see of Ely. In the chapel before mentioned was the chantry of St. Mary, founded by Sir Adam de Hakebeach; also the lights and images of St. Edmund, St. Mary, and our Lady of Pity. A free chapel, called Berking, was also standing in 1389, in a hamlet of that name, and which afterwards gave the same appellation to the ancient family of the Berkings. Wisbeach canal runs by the side of Emneth.

Pursuing the course of this, we arrive at

UPWELL and OATWELL. The greatest part of these villages, with their lands, lie in Cambridgeshire, though both the churches are in Norfolk. That of Upwell is dedicated to St. Peter, and is a large regular pile, consisting of a nave, north and south aisles; a chancel of stone, embattled with brick, and covered with lead. The length of the nave is about 71 feet, and the breadth, including the aisles, about 51. The roof of the nave is highly ornamented with carved work, and angels with expanded wings, &c.: the whole is supported by neat pillars, forming six arches on each side, with as many windows over them. At the east end of the nave is a stone turret, and a staircase that led to the rood-loft. The north aisle has a neat oaken roof,

adorned with angels, and several swans are carved on the braces. At the east end of this there have been a chapel and an altar. The bottom of the tower at the west end is round; the upper part octangular, of boulder, embattled with brick: the shaft, or spire, is covered with lead. This tower contains six large bells, and here is a town clock: here is also a stone porch, and a room over it. Several swans are carved over the old door, as a rebus to some benefactor, or a compliment to Henry V., who had a swan for his badge or cognizance. Above the screen fronting the chancel is a large painting representing the church of England as a venerable matron clothed in white, crowned, and seated on a throne; at her feet is written, "The Church of England:" on her knees lie the Bible and Common Prayer Book, Book of Homilies, and the thirty-nine Articles; and in her left hand she holds a cup, near which is written, "Drink ye all of this:" her right hand points to a font, round which stand godfathers and godmothers. Near an infant, in the arms of one of them, are these words, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not." Over the head of the venerable matron are these words, "Many daughters have done well, but thou excellest them all." The communion table is spread around, and the communicants are on their knees. Under the whole are several verses.

Oatwell church is dedicated to St. Clement, and is a large building of carr and boulder. Here is a nave, a north and south aisle, and a chancel, all embattled with copings of stone and brick. A square tower at the west end, with quoins of freestone, contains five bells and a town clock. The roof of the south aisle is supported by the images of saints and angels, bearing scrolls; and here is a carved anchor, the insignia of St. Clement: the east end of this aisle is enclosed by a screen, and forms the ancient chapel of St. Mary, the

burial-place of the Beaupres family. On the roof of this chapel is the profane representation of the Deity, common in the time of popery, vested in robes of blue, seated in a chair of gold, with an orb in his hand. In the south window are the figures of St. Peter and four others. Within the south wall is an old arched monument for the founder, without any date, arms, or inscription. Against the wall hangs an achievement, with the arms. In the south window of the chancel there was formerly a painting representing a matron in a white robe and blue mantle, on her knees, between four men : at her feet a fox hanging on a tree, wounded in the neck with two arrows ; behind and before two monkeys, with bows shooting at the fox.

Mulicourt Priory, called also the chapel of St. Mary de Bello Loco, stood in the parish of Oatwell, on the bank between this place and Downham, and was founded in the time of the Saxons for the order of St. Benedict.

Mirmound Priory is in the parish of Upwell, but in the isle and county of Cambridge. It was founded for the order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham.

The hermitage of St. Christopher stood in the parish of Oatwell, near the church, on the king's highway, and had a chapel belonging thereto.

EXCURSION VII.

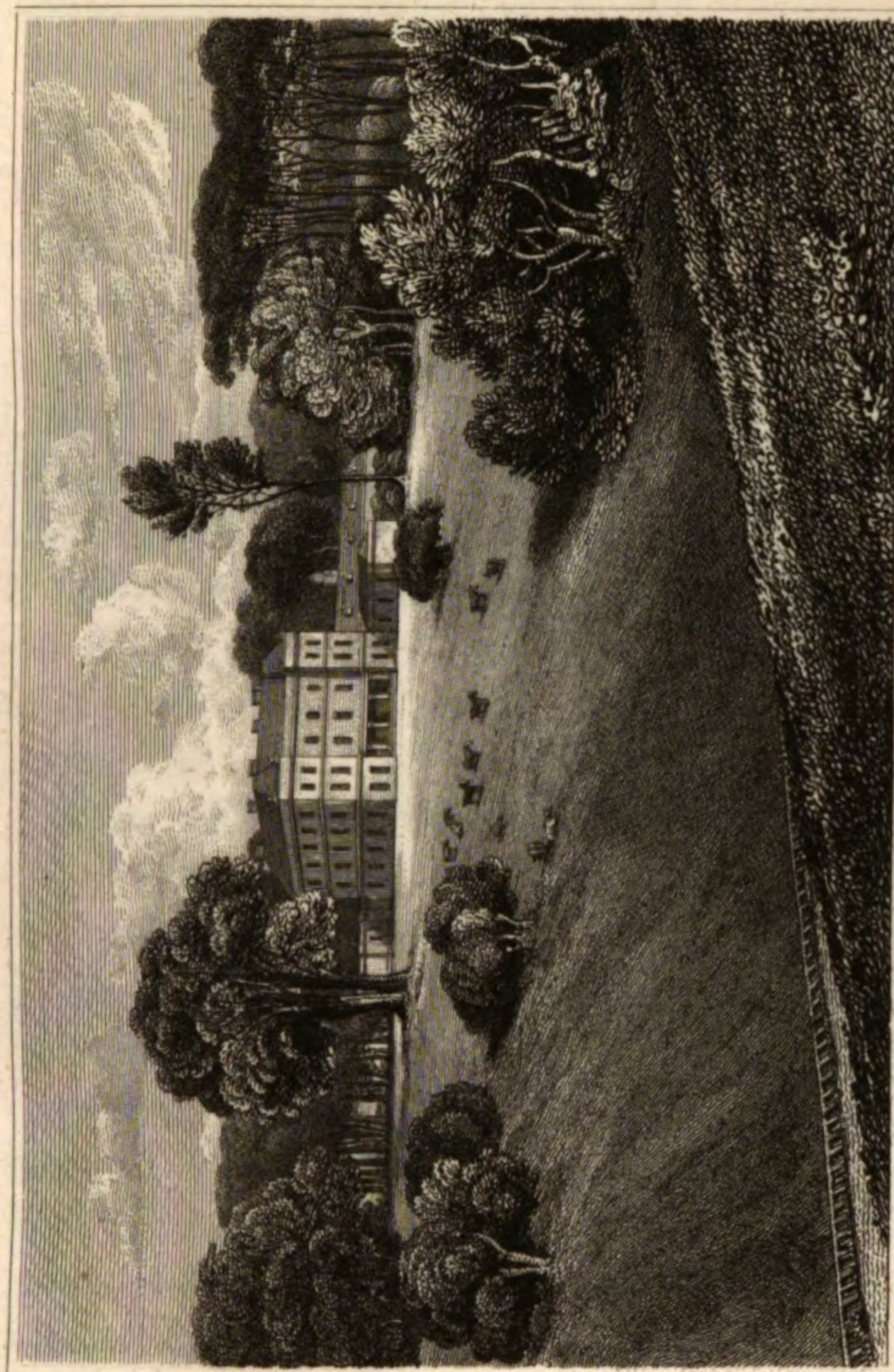
From Norwich through Earlham, Colney, Barford, Kimberley, Hackford, Hingham, Upgate, Watton, Thrextton, Stanford, West-Tofts, Lindesford, Mundford, Cranwick, Northwold, Stokeferry, Wereham, Crimplesham to Downham.

COMMENCING this excursion, we leave Norwich by the high road, leading westward direct to Watton, and about two miles from the city pass the village of Earlham. Here is situated Earlham Hall, the seat of Bacon Franks, esq. Proceeding a mile farther, we arrive at

COLNEY. This is a little village at the northern extremity of the hundred. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew; it is a small building, with a round tower, containing two bells. Colney Hall is a handsome mansion, standing on the high grounds above the river, and, of course, commands an extensive prospect; the monuments and inscriptions in this church contain nothing worthy of particular notice.

Melton Parva lies rather more than four miles from Norwich, on our left. Here is Melton Hall, Hertford's or Hereford's manors. The church is dedicated to All Saints. The north chapel here had two guilds held in it. Melton Hall is the seat of Sir John Combe, bart.

BAWBURGH is the same distance from Norwich, on the opposite side of the road. This little village, at the east of this hundred, has been famous for the birth of St. Walstan; but his history at this time would probably excite more contempt than interest or real information. However, such was the resort of the devout



Engraved by J.S. Leeman from a Drawing by J.S. Leeman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

EARSHAM HALL,
The Seat of Sir Windham Dalling Bart
NORFOLK.

Pub. & Sold by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

to this town in former ages, not only from all parts of England, but from places beyond sea, that the inhabitants in general, as well as the vicar and serving priests, grew exceedingly rich, so that in 1309 they rebuilt the chancel, and adorned the church and chapel in the most handsome manner. A hermit also used to perform divine service to the pilgrims, in his own chapel, belonging to his hermitage at Bawburgh bridge, and then attended them to town, sprinkling them with hyssop and holy water. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the dissolution of monasteries bringing with it the suppression of pilgrimages, these measures, of course, entailed poverty upon the inhabitants of Bawburgh; even the church became ruinous, and was for some time forsaken. The steeple is round, and the church was repaired in the year 1663.

BOWTHORP is rather nearer to Norwich, but lies more to the right. Here is a very small church, which is without aisles, and has only a small turret for a steeple, with one bell. In the east window are the arms of Yallop, Giles, and Spelman.

MARLINGFORD is about six miles from Norwich, on the same side of the road. According to all the registers of Bury Abbey, this lordship was given to that monastery by Systed, or Systeda, a pious virago, when she went beyond sea in the time of Edward the Confessor. Her will is to be found in the Black Register, and in the Sacristo Register, both of which have been preserved in the public library at Cambridge. The church of Marlingford is 35 feet long and 15 broad; the north aisle 22 feet long and 10 broad: the nave and chancel have been thatched.

BARFORD, or BEREฟอร์ด, is seven miles from Norwich. Here is Barford Hall manor, which was held by Alan, surnamed the Black, the second earl of Richmond. The church is dedicated to St. Botolph. Here was a gild in honour of this saint, and two altars at

the east end of the nave, one on each side, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Nicholas. It consists of a nave and chancel, and has a square tower about 50 feet high, containing three bells.

WRAMPLINGHAM is the same distance from Norwich, and about half a mile to the left. The church here appears to have been a fine building: the chancel is supposed to have been erected by John Canel, rector, who was buried in it in 1448. His tomb, though robbed of its brasses, afterwards retained the impression of a cup and wafer. There are six regular windows on each side, in each of which was one of the twelve apostles.

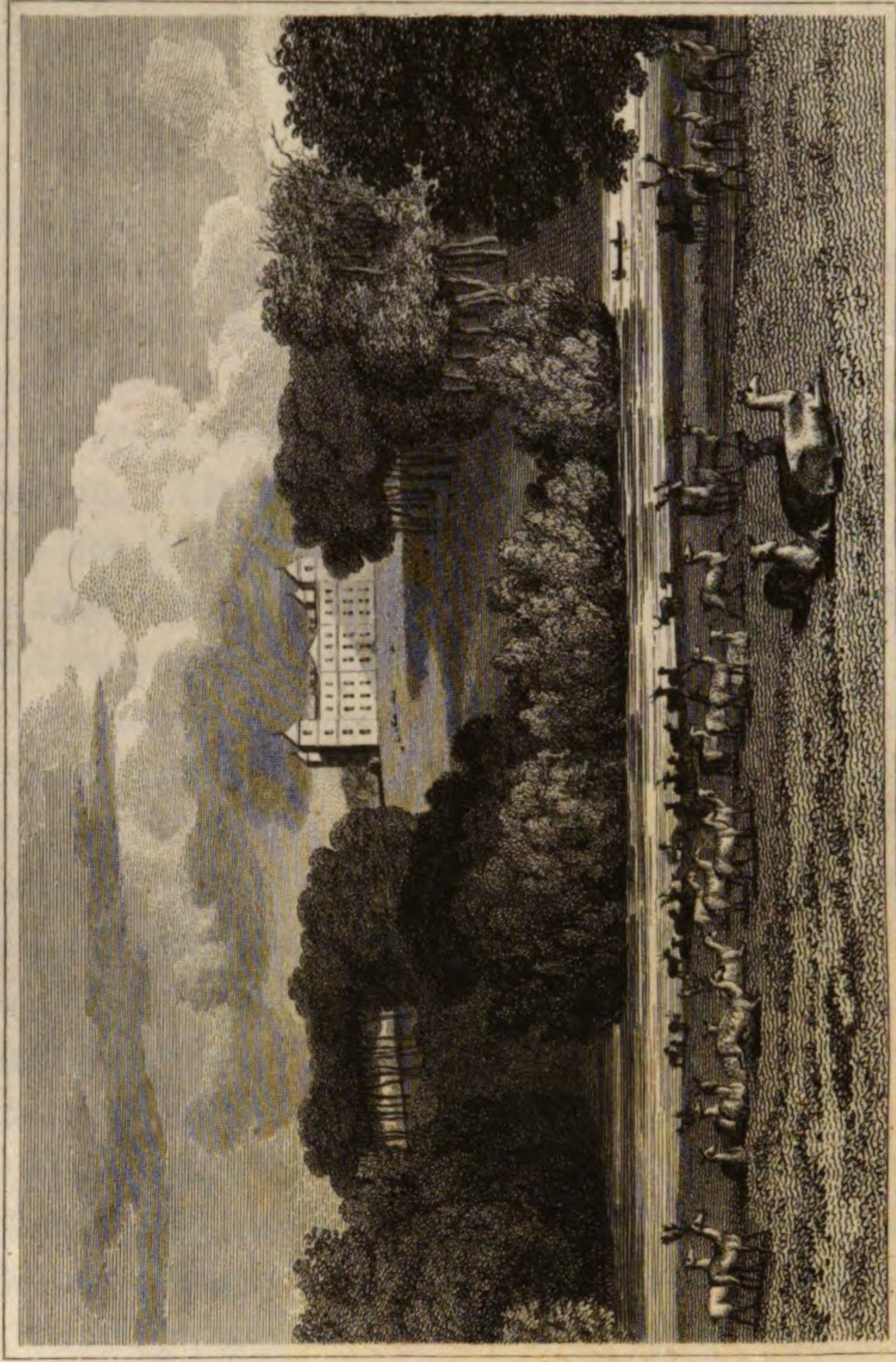
CARLETON FOREHOE is on the road, about nine miles from Norwich. Forehoe Hill, in this town, was the place where the justices of peace were appointed to meet for several of the hundreds in case of any commotion. The church was dedicated to St. Mary, who had her gild kept in it: in 1461 the cross on the perke, or rood loft, was made; and in 1429 the black cross, standing on the highway, was repaired.

BERNHAM BROOM lies about a mile to our right. The church of St. Peter and St. Paul belonged to William de Mortimer. The church of St. Michael stood in the same churchyard, and the foundations of it appeared for some ages after its decay, on the north side of St. Peter's, the present church. These two churches were consolidated, and the church of Bickerston was added to them, in the year 1680.

BRANDON PARVA lies half a mile to the north-west of Bernham, and is so called to distinguish it from Brandon Magna, or Great Brandon, in Suffolk. Here is nothing particular to arrest our attention.

We now pass two or three inconsiderable villages, and ten miles from Norwich rejoin the road at

KIMBERLEY, a village of some antiquity. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. In Henry III.'s time



Engraved by J. Greig, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Beauties through Norfolk.

KIMBERLEY HALL,
The Seat of the R^t Hon^{ble} Lord Wodehouse.
NORFOLK.

Pub^d June 1. 1818. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

there was a chapel in the churchyard, dedicated to St. Mary, which, from the appearance of its ruins, was 36 feet long, and 21 in breadth. Kimberley Hall manor, in the beginning of King John's reign, was in the possession of Hugh de Gurnaco, or Gournay, a Norman. In the middle of Kimberley church there was formerly a stone with this inscription, with the provincialism of *lye* for *lies*, which, like *have* for *has*, &c. is so common in this part of the kingdom :

Under this stone rare Jenkyns lye,
The master of the musick art,
Whom from the earth the God on high
Called up to him to bear his part.

Aged 86, October 27,

In anno 78 he went to heaven.

The parish register says, John Jenkins, esq. was buried October 29, 1678.

Kimberley Hall, the beautiful seat of Lord Wodehouse, stands in the parish of Wymondham, in the hamlet of Downham; but the park is in this parish. This seat formerly belonged to the family of Fastolff, and stood on the west side of the village of Kimberley. In the reign of Henry IV. it came into the hands of Sir John Wodehouse, who took it down, and erected a noble mansion on the site of the east part of the former structure: here the family resided till the year 1659, when Sir Philip Wodehouse, having demolished it, removed to the present seat. Blomefield mentions having seen the following description of the decay of this mansion in old verse:

First fell Elizabeth's brave lodging room,
Then the fair stately hall to ruin came;
Next falls the vast great chamber arch'd on high,
With golden pendants fretted sumptuously.
Yet of four parts there still remain'd the seat
Unto that heir who first was baronet,

And to his son, till that long parliament,
Nobles and gentry brought to discontent;
In which sad humour he lets all the rest
Of this fair fabrick sink into its dust:
Down falls the chapel, then the goodly tower,
Tho' of material, so firm and stower
Time scarce could uncement them; but, sad fate,
Now England suffers both in church and state.
But these may God rebuild and raise again,
By th' restoration of our sovereign.

The same historian adds, "At Kimberley park gate, by the church, till very lately, was always a public-house, called, from its sign, 'Kimberley Wild Man,' it being one of the supporters of the arms of the family. It was anciently customary for signs of this nature to be made to shew what family the house was supported by, and here the huntsman generally lived."

The family of Wodehouse, which has long been settled in Norwich, derives its descent with little interruption through a succession of knights from the time of Henry I. In that reign Sir Constantine Wodehouse married Isabel, daughter and heiress of the Botetorts. John Wodehouse was a gentleman of the privy chamber to Henry V., and attended that monarch into France. At the battle of Agincourt he so much distinguished himself, that the king granted him an augmentation to his arms, with leave to bear as a motto, "AGINCOURT," and appointed him steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, in the county of Norfolk, with a salary of ten pounds per annum. Sir John Wodehouse, having represented Norfolk in two parliaments, was created Baron Wodehouse, in 1797.

The present Kimberley Hall was built by Sir John Wodehouse, to which four rooms, one at each angle, were added by the late Sir Armine Wodehouse, who also made several other improvements. The house is constructed of brick, and contains many convenient

rooms, particularly a spacious library. The park, in which the house is situated, is both extensive and beautiful, and is richly ornamented with wood and water. A lake, comprising about twenty-eight acres, apparently environing a large carr, or wood of venerable oaks, on the western side, forms a delightful view from the house; while to the north-west, the rivulet which marks the boundary to a fine lawn is converted into a serpentine river, issuing from the lake.

Lord Wodehouse, the present possessor of this enchanting mansion, preserves here a fine portrait of Vandyck, painted by himself when young. It is said there is still in the family a noble throne, which was erected in the grand hall, at Kimberley, for Queen Elizabeth, who lodged here in 1578, on the return from Norwich, in her progress to Cambridge. A pair of necklaces, given by Queen Catherine, wife of Henry V., are now in Kimberley House: they are very large, all of coral, except every tenth bead, which is wrought gold: there are seventy in all, with a cross of gold hanging to them. There are also preserved here the hilt of a large old sword, adorned with silver, and a long knife, or poniard, of the same workmanship, said to be those used by Sir John at the battle of Agincourt.

WICLEWOOD is about eleven miles from Norwich, lying half a mile to the left of the road. Here were two churches, All Saints and St. Andrew's: a moiety of the former was appropriated to the monks of Norwich, by the bishop, in 1226. St. Andrew's has been dilapidated many years: it stood in the same churchyard with the other. King Henry VI., in 1440, granted a market and two fairs to the town of Wiclewood.

Turning to the west, we rejoin the road at Hackford, an inconsiderable village, and proceed to

HINGHAM, ten miles distant from Norwich. This

town belonged to King Athelstan, and had attached to it 60 carucates or hides of land, which he gave to Athelwold, Bishop of Winchester; and about the year 966, the latter exchanged this with King Edgar for 40 hides and a half, since called St. Etheldreds, or St. Audries Liberty, and thus Hingham came again to the crown. This manor, &c. was granted by King Stephen to William de Caineo or Cheyney, and his heirs, in exchange for Moleham; however, being again vested in the king, he farmed it to de Rye, castellan of Norwich, the second son of that Hubert de Rye, who came over with the conqueror. After his death, the manor belonged to Hugh Gournay, a noble baron, who was made captain of Castle Galliard, built on a high rock over the Seine, which he valiantly defended during six months against Philip, King of France. This baron afterwards gave up the castle of Montfort to the French in a traitorous manner, on account of which, in 1202, all his revenues were seized and granted to John Marshall, nephew to William, who married Isabel, daughter and heiress of Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, and Marshal of England, called the Old Marshal, Earl of Pembroke.

Another proprietor of these manors was Sir Thomas, Lord Morley, Baron of Rye, and Marshal of Ireland, in 1414: he was retained to serve Henry V. in his French wars, and was summoned to attend at Dover with ten men at arms, and thirty archers on horseback. For this he was to be paid a quarter's wages down, in English gold, or other current money of France, by the treasurer at war there. On the 1st of May, 1420, he agreed with the king to have all the prisoners he and his men could take, kings, princes, and kings' sons excepted, particularly Charles, who called himself Dauphine de Vienne, and other great captains of royal blood, with others under the said Charles, excepting also those who murdered the Duke

of Burgoyne. The seals to this agreement are the arms of Morley, but the lion is not crowned ; the crest is a bear's head muzzled, the inscription

" Sigillum Thome Morley, Marescalli Hibernie."

He died in 1435, and was buried in the chancel of Hingham church, where his memory is preserved by a noble monument against the north wall.

Sir Ralph de Hingham, knt. was a justice of the King's Bench during 16 years, and had a fee of 40*l.* per annum. He was a canon of St. Paul's cathedral, justice itinerant in 1271, and one of the government commissioners in the absence of Edward I. in the Holy Land : after that king's return, he was one of the judges removed for bribery and corruption, and was fined 7000 marks, an enormous sum in those days ; which being unable or unwilling to pay, he was first imprisoned, and afterwards exiled, with nine more offenders of equal rank. He at length paid his fine, and being said to have evinced signs of contrition, he was appointed chief justice of the Common Pleas in the 1st of Edward II. 1308, and dying that year, he was buried under a niche in the north wall of St. Paul's cathedral. Two only of the twelve judges, John de Mettingham and Elias de Beckingham, escaped implication in the malpractices of these times. The family of the Morleys are very ancient ; they were settled at Hingham long before they were possessed of the manor. Ingulf de Morle, who witnessed the foundation charter of Windham priory, held lands of the head manor. In 1198, Robert de Morlai had lands here. This family is evidently of Danish or Norman extraction. When the principal manor went from them, a good estate remained in a younger branch. In 1482, Robert Morley, esq. intending to be buried in Hingham church, previously ordered his best

horse, saddle and bridle, to be led before his body on the day of his interment, and to be delivered at the church to the curate or his deputy, in the name of a mortuary. Here is a free-school, and, at a small distance north-west of the church, a handsome seat was erected by a Mr. Bullock. In 1739, a good parsonage-house was also built by the then rector. More than a century since it was observed, "Since this place has had the bad fate to be burned down, it has been rebuilt in a finer form, and the inhabitants, suitable to the place, are taken notice of as a genteel sort of people, so fashionable in their dress, that the town is called by the neighbours Little London."

The church of Hingham is a good building, with a lofty tower; the whole was rebuilt by Remigius de Hethersete, the rector, in the time of Edward III. with the assistance of John le Marshal, his patron, who contributed much to the perfection of the whole. It was dedicated to St. Andrew the apostle, and had several chapels in it, the most remarkable being at the termination of each aisle. Each of these, seven in number, had their stipendiary chaplains serving at their altars in the church, and constituting a choir. Blomefield remarks, that "Robert Morley, esq. buried in this church in 1484, gave seven surplices to the choir, and that, without doubt, it must make a fine appearance in those times, it being adorned with several images, all of which had lights, either wax tapers or candles, constantly burning before them in time of divine service, and being dispersed all over the church, chancel and chapels, must make it, in the night season, a fine sight." The principal image of St. Andrew stood in the chancel on the north side of the altar, and those of five and twenty other saints occupied different parts of this structure.

In 1464, dame Isabel Morley, widow, made her will at her house, in St. Peter's, Mancroft, in Nor-

wich, and was buried in the chancel at Hingham, before the image of St. Andrew. She ordered, if she died in Norwich, that her body should be carried to the chapel of St. Mary in the Fields, and a mass said for her, and then to be carried to Hingham, with 15 torches borne before her, by 15 of her poor tenants, in black gowns; and that also five poor women, in black, should each bear a taper of two pounds weight, and place them before the sacrament by her grave, there to remain till they be burnt up. Every priest at her mass of requiem to have 4*d.* and every clerk 2*d.* To the altar at St. Peter's, Mancroft, she gave 6*s.* 8*d.*; to repair the church, 40*s.*; to sustain the holy mass of Jesus, 13*s.* 4*d.*; to the high altar at Hingham, 6*s.* 8*d.*; to repair the church 40 more, and a tablet of gold, garnished with pearl, containing certain relics, with a beril in the same tablet and two images, one of the resurrection, and the other of our Lady; and her longest carpet with white flowers to be before the high altar. Among other things left to her daughter and son-in-law were a diaper towel, 18 yards long. Besides legacies to her poor tenants, at several places in the county, she gave money to dame Julian, anchoress at Carrowe, and to dame Agness, another female hermit at St. Julians, in Cunsford, besides 53*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to be paid as long as it lasted, in a stipend for a priest, to pray for her and her lord in Hingham church, the windows of which were once embellished with the arms of Mowbray, Brotherton, &c.

The following is an extract from the testament of Simon Lister, buried here in 1483 :

“ Item, I wyll my close in Sculton Saunsey, called Ruttocks, and six acres and a half of land arable, and the rent called Market-house, in Hengham, shall be put in feoffment of xii. persons in the town of Hengham, of most godly and best disposed persons, to the intent that Rose, my wyffe, shall have the gyding of

the almeshouses, called John Lister's alms-houses, during her lyfe, bearing all manner of charges and reparacons thereof, and to the intent to fynd and keep a *certain* in the said church for ever, for the sowles of John Lister my father, Margery my mother, Will Lister, and Katherine his wyffe, Simon Blount, and Maud his wyffe, Richard and John Lister, Johane Ade, my mother-in-law, and the sowles of me and my wyffe; and also to keep an anniversary day for me, the said Simon, and the sowles yerly, *in perpetuum*, upon Passion Sunday, at afternoon, with *dirige*, and mass of requiem by note, and also for me by name, and my benefactors, on *Hallowmass day*, to be rehersed in the common *beed*. Thirteen-pence to six poor persons, or to 13 at *dirige*; and after the decease of the said Rose, the close to remain in the feoffees hands to the use aforesaid, and to be renewed from time to time, when but seven of them are left." It should be observed, that on All Saints, or Hallow Mass day, it was the custom for the common bead-roll of every church to be read, and mass said for all the benefactors, whose names were always entered in this roll. A monument to the memory of Lord Morley, on the north side of the chancel, has been completely stripped of most of its brasses; the arms only remain.

In 1605, the church of Hingham was disturbed by an enthusiast, of a different description from any of the former, viz. Robert Peck, A.M. who being rector, and a violent schismatic, pulled down the rails, and levelled the altar and the chancel a foot below the church. Being prosecuted by Bishop Wren, he fled to New England, with many of his parishioners, who sold their estates for half their value, and, after their arrival, formed a colony and built a town, which they named Hingham. His congregation here he promised never to desert, but hearing that the bishops were deposed, he left his flock in New England to shift for

themselves, returning to Hingham in 1646, after ten years absence, where, resuming his rectory, he died in 1656.

In the east window of Trinity chapel are the arms of Lord Morley, and according to tradition this chapel was built by the young women of Hingham, which appears probable, from the following fragment of an inscription now remaining :

“Thys wyndow ys y mad———Hengham.”

This, when whole, read as follows :

“Thys wyndowe ys ye mayden cost of Hengham.”

The following text, in gilt letters, was several years since to be seen on the pulpit :

Necessity is laid upon me, yea woe is me, if I preach not the gospel, 1 Cor. 9. 6.”

Hingham has a market on Saturday; a fair on March 6, and October 2, for toys. The number of houses in 1811 were 241, containing 1263 inhabitants.

DEEPHAM, about a mile to the left of Hingham, has been celebrated for its Linden tree, which, on account of its size, when viewed at a distance, was looked upon as a giant among pigmies. It stood upon the premises belonging to a Mr. Amias; but has been taken down nearly a century since. This tree certainly attracted the attention of the celebrated Mr. Evelyn, who published a description of it, which he asserted he had received from Dr. Brown of Norwich. The church here is a good building, having a large tower and five bells, north and south aisles, and a chapel.

Leaving several inconsiderable villages to the right, we proceed about two miles along the road from Hingham, and arrive at

SCOULTON. The church here, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is a small building, with a low steeple, square at bottom, and octangular at top, containing three bells.

At the upper end of the two aisles there was a chapel and an altar in each, and in the south chapel windows are the arms of Calthorp and Mortimer. In different shields upon a monument against the west end of the church are the instruments of the Passion, as the hammer, the scourge, the crown of thorns, the spear, and the sponge; the heart pierced, the nails, the five wounds, the cross, and the name Jesus. The D'Eyes, or Days, of Scoulton, are an ancient family.

CARBROOK. This village lies rather to the right of our road. John, bishop of Norwich, consolidated the vicarages of Great and Little Kerbrook: the church at the latter place was then taken down. Carbrook Parva was an exempt belonging to the commandry of St. John at Great Carbrook. In 1737, in digging in the churchyard, which had been long desecrated, a cross was found laid over the coffin of some religious person buried here; most probably one of the knights. Upon this cross were two chains, to which two jewels had been suspended. This cross was of a very curious form, with an oaken stem, ornamented with brass bosses.

Carbrook was at first the seat of a preceptory of knights templars, and was founded by Roger, Earl of Clare, who died in the year 1173. In 1182, Maud, Countess of Clare, and widow of the founder, gave it to the knights hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, and more amply endowed it. This endowment was confirmed by her son, Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, and King John, and the house was sometimes denominated "the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem;" but most commonly the Commandry of Kerbrook. Its revenue consisted of numerous farms and vassals; and all persons enjoying the privileges of this order were allowed to fix a cross upon their houses and lands, which exempted them from the payment of tythes, taxes, and many customary dues. This privilege being abused, an act was passed in the reign of

Edward I., according to which, persons setting up crosses falsely were to forfeit the house, land, or tenement, to the lord of the fee.

The church of Carbrook is a regular pile, consisting of a nave, two aisles, two porches, and a chancel, with a lofty square tower at the west end. The screens which separate the nave from the chancel have been much admired. Sixteen stalls, still remaining, point out the number of knights belonging to the commandry; and, from the stones with mutilated inscriptions, it appears that a number of persons of distinction have been interred here, though the arms have been destroyed or stolen.

Carbrook Hall is the seat of James Barker, esq.

LITTLE ELLINGHAM lies about a mile and a half to the south-east of Scoulton. This town, in the Conqueror's time, is said to have been three miles long. The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and paid 12*d.* Peter-pence. It had two guilds belonging to it, one of St. Peter, and the other of St. John Baptist. In 1663, the parish had licence to sell a bell; and in 1671, another to lessen the chancel. The tower is square, and, standing on the south side of the church, serves for a porch: here is only one bell. The Rev. Mr. John Cater, rector in 1738, built a neat parsonage-house, adjoining to the north-west part of the churchyard.

CASTON is about two miles westward of Little Ellingham. Here is Caston Hall manor, which for several centuries belonged to the family of the Castons. In 1938, William Caston, esq. was comptroller of the town and castle of Calais, in France. The tower of the church is square, and contains five bells. Very few memorials remain in the interior. In a north window of the chancel there were two effigies of the Castons; one a knight kneeling, armed *cap-à-pie*, with a surcoat of Caston; the other, a woman kneel-

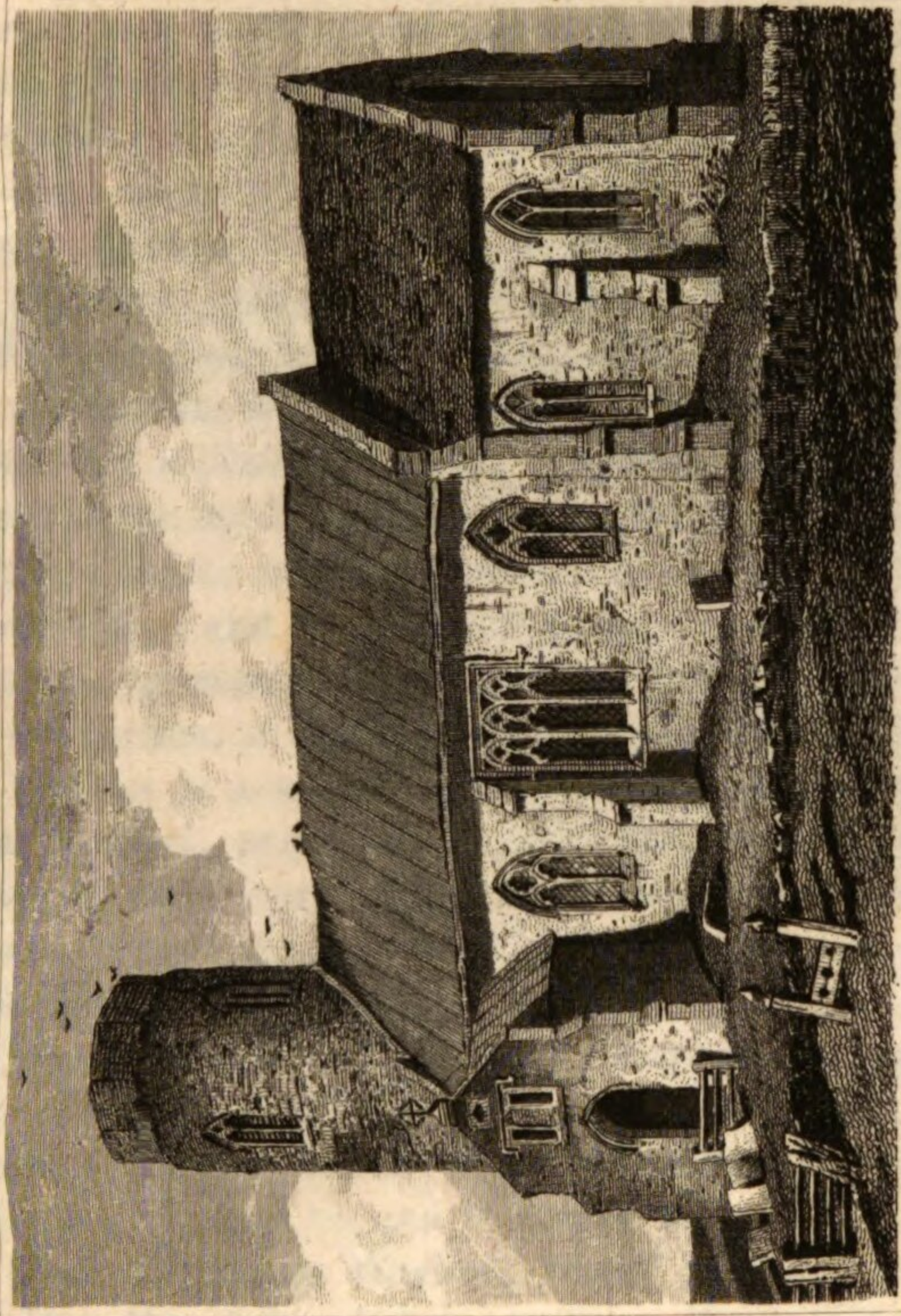
ing, with the same arms on her gown. An old house on the opposite side of the road was supposed to have been an inn for the reception of pilgrims on the Walsingham road, with an ancient cross standing near it. In Caston church was a guild, dedicated to St. Mary, and two lights continually burning before the images of the Virgin and St. Nicholas.

GRISTON is passed on our return to the road. The church here was dedicated to St. Margaret, and appropriated to the prior and convent of Buckenham; and here were four guilds. In 1446 the bells were new, and in 1477 the present steeple, with a considerable part of the church, was rebuilt, and rededicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. The fine tower of this church is decorated with cross keys and swords, the emblems of St. Peter and St. Paul. In 1679, Dr. Owen Hughes, commissary to the bishop, and official to the archdeacon of Norwich, having found the chancel of this church in a ruinous condition, sequestered the impropriate tithes to repair it. This is an instance of the bishop's or archdeacon's power to sequester impropriate tithes, if the owners, or their farmers, refuse or neglect to repair the chancels, but too often in a ruined state. The windows were formerly very fine, being embellished with the effigies of the Caston and Palmer families. The altar stone, with a cross at each corner, used to lie in the nave; and the other stones that came off the two low altars were placed as stiles in the churchyard, their crosses remaining on them. In a north window is a priest in a pulpit, preaching to a large congregation, with these words in labels:

Nos predicamur Christum crucifixum

Nonne est hic qui expugnabat.

In another place was the devil, with cloven feet



Engraved by J. C. G. from a Drawing by J. S. G. for the Excursions through Norfolk.

GRESHAM CHURCH,
NORFOLK.

Pub. 2 April 1819 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

and asses ears, sitting in a throne as a king, with his crown and robes : a vast press of people crowd to make their address to him : there are kings, with their crowns on, pressing forward : there were little devils, with long ears and tails, flying over them, and this broken label—"Exaltet eum in ecclesia."

We now rejoin the road at

WATTON. Here is the manor of Watton Hall. The church near the old manor-house, long since destroyed, stands between the present town and Watton Green. According to appearance this church was built by Fitz-Walter, about the reign of Henry I., though in the time of Henry VI. it seems to have been rededicated to St. Mary : being very small, it shows that the population here must have increased. The steeple is round at the bottom, and contains three large bells. The remains of a curious crucifix, carved in stone on the front of the north porch, has been much admired. A window in the south aisle contains the arms of Thetford priory ; and three or four stones, stripped of their brasses, appeared to have been laid over some persons of distinction, as one had four shields of arms on it.

Watton is a small market-town, in the centre of the hundred, near what is called the *filand*, or open part of the county. Since a turnpike-road has been made through the hundred, Watton has become a considerable thoroughfare.

The market here is held on Wednesdays : the number of houses is 168, and that of the inhabitants, according the last census, 794. The fairs are kept on July 10, October 10, and November 8.

Near Watton is Wayland Wood, vulgarly called Wailing Wood, founded on a tradition, that in this wood the children were basely murdered, upon which the ancient ballad is founded, entitled The Children in the Wood ; or, The Norfolk Gentleman's last Will and Testament. The name Wailing is evidently a

corruption of Wayland, and this demesne gives title to the hundred; the sheriff's turn, or court, having been formerly kept at a place in this wood.

SAHAM TONY is about a mile from Watton, lying about half a mile to our right. The church here is dedicated to St. George, to whose honour a large guild was founded, with a chapel that contained his sepulchre. In 1286, the vicar proved that he had a right to a mortuary at the death of any parishioner, and recovered a horse for the mortuary then in dispute. The church is a good building, consisting of a nave, two aisles, a chancel, and south porch, all leaded. The square tower was built about 1480, and upon it are St. George and the Dragon, carved in stone. Here are five bells, and formerly there was a clock.

ASHILL is nearly two miles to the northward. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and in 1458 Jeffry Coo was buried before the altar of St. John Baptist, and ordered his executor to make a new window by that altar. Richard Coo, buried here in 1507, left legacies to all the guilds, viz. those of St. John Baptist, St. Nicholas, and Trinity; to the torches and common light, 6s. 8d.; five pounds of wax to our Lady of Pity's light; 20d. to the young man's light; to the blessed rood, three pounds of wax, &c. The church of Ashill consists of a nave and south aisle, a south porch, and a chancel. A square tower has six bells. Ashill parish contains the capital manor of Uphall, to which the advowson always belonged, till it was sold in 1738.

A good road leads from Ashill to
Great Cressingham. This manor was enjoyed by the bishops of the see till the reign of King Stephen, when Eborard, the bishop, being distressed in the wars between the king and the empress Maud, was obliged to resign his right in this town to two powerful knights

and leaders, in order to preserve the rest of his bishopric. The old hall belonging to this lordship appears, by the arms on the walls, to have been built by the Jenneys family. Street Hall, or Straw Hall, is another lordship held by the family of Le Briton, in the reign of Henry III. Sir Ralph le Briton, by his deed without date, granted to William le Briton, his brother, and John, his son and heir, all his land at Sporle, Cotes, and Kersingham, on the condition of entertaining him three times in the year, if he came to those places in person. The seal to this deed has been deemed curious: the Virgin and her child is seated under an arch; on each side of her is a wax taper burning; and under this, in a small arch, is Sir Ralph on his knees, and this punning legend:

Mater Sancta Dei, Sit tibi Cura Mei.

The reverse is an antique head, couped, with this legend:

Frangere, Lege, Cave, Tege.

The church of Cressingham Magna, dedicated to St. Michael, is an uniform structure, composed of flint and boulder, with copings of freestone, consisting of a nave, north and south aisles, and a chancel covered with lead. The vault of the nave is supported by pillars, each formed of pilasters joined together, supporting a roof of oak. Upon the principals are carved the effigies of bishops, priests, &c. In the tower of this church, at the west end, is what is called a *bell sollar*, or place for the ringers, which place in ancient times was frequently erected by well disposed persons, for the greater convenience and decency of their processions, that the priest and people, coming in at the western door, might not be incommoded by ropes and ringers.

At the east end of the north aisle, in the windows, a

shield of Paston was to be seen, with this inscription below it: *Orate pro animabus Dmⁱ Willielmi Paston, iusticiare regis.*

This Sir William was lord of Street Hall, and built this aisle, and was also a judge in the court of Common Pleas in the reign of Henry VI.

In the east wall is a stone staircase, that leads to the rood-loft, and near that a small mural compartment of marble, with an inscription upon William Smith, esq., who died in 1596, and his wife. To the south side a porch is attached, ornamented in several places with the letter M cut in stone, and a crown over it; also a sword erect, with a crown on the point, supposed to represent St. Michael and his victory. The church is dedicated to this saint, and the same insignia are to be seen on the tower. The nave is separated from the chancel by a good screen, which has been curiously painted and carved with images, &c. Over it are the commandments and this sentence: "Per Christi sanguinum, introitus in sanctissimum."

On the part facing the chancel is the triangular emblem of the Trinity. Behind the screen are six stalls, three on each side of the chapel, wainscotted at the back, and much resembling those in collegiate churches and colleges. The chancel has eight neat windows, four on a side, their arches supported by beautiful pilasters, partly worked into the wall. Against the west wall is a stone for the *imago principalis*, and an arch in the south wall, that contained the basin for the holy water. At the entrance of the chancel lies a grey marble, with the effigies of a priest in brass; the plate belonging to it was preserved in the church chest. The arms of the priory of Norwich remain in the east, and in one of the north windows. Godwin, the deacon, it seems, gave by his deed, to God and the Holy Trinity, at Norwich, his church of Cressingham Magna, and all things thereto belonging; the houses, household

stuff, lands, and animals, and whatever he had, moveable and immoveable, here of the bishop's fee, for his own soul, and that of Edina his wife, by the consent of his lord, Herbert, the bishop; and further promised to take upon him the habit of a religious in the same church, when God should inspire, and his lord command him, after the decease of his wife, and desired his lord to confirm the gift, which he did about the year 1100.

Very singular was the fate of Sir Hugh de Cressingham, one of the rectors of this parish, in the year 1294. Being taken by the Scots in the battle of Stryvelin, he was flayed alive by them. Edward Franklin, S. T. B. having been chaplain to the lord chancellor Bacon, had a dispensation to hold the rectory of St. Laurence, with the vicarage of Kelvedon, alias Easterfield, in Essex. In the rebellion he was ejected out of this and the rectory of Cressingham Parva. In endeavouring to escape from the rebels, the point of a pale in his garden penetrated his groin, as he was getting over it, and caused his death, leaving a widow and four children.

SOUTH PICKENHAM. This village lies about a mile north of Great Cressingham. The church here consists only of an aisle or nave of flint; being in length about 42 feet, and 16 in breadth, with a roof of oak. Over the arch of a window is a stone pedestal, with an angel carved upon it. Here was probably the image of the Virgin, and an altar dedicated to her. A chapel or burial-place of brick, on the north side, has long been in ruins, without a roof, and overgrown with ivy: this was built by Henry Hobart, youngest son of Sir Henry Hobart, knt. lord chief justice of the common pleas, who was buried there in 1638. The windows of the chancel have been curiously painted; on the north side are fragments of the salutation. In the reign of Edward I. here were two churches; the pre-

sent, dedicated to All Saints, and that of St. Andrew, which were consolidated. The Lady Sibilla de Tourteville was patroness. At the west end of the nave is a very antique round tower, and upon that an octangular top, raised some centuries after the decay of the former, which was probably built by Edric, the Danish lord: this tower contains three bells. Several of the Methwolds family are here interred.

Here is South Pickenham Hall, the seat of W. J. Chute, esq.

Returning towards our road, along the banks of the Wissey, we pass

BODNEY. This little village lies on the east side of a small rivulet that runs past Cressingham Magna, and thence northwards to this place. In Domesday-book it is written Bredena. It was held by Bond, a Saxon, in the Confessor's time; but afterwards came to Hugh Montfort. Blomefield describes Bodney as a depopulated village, consisting only of a manor-house, a farm-house adjoining, and a poor rectory-house, like a cottage, at the east end of the churchyard. The manor-house was a large, convenient, old house, built of clunch, stone, &c., with good gardens and walks adjoining the river side. The present Bodney Hall belongs to — Tasburgh, esq. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a single pile of flint, pebble-stones, &c., standing on a rising ground near the hall. The chancel is separated from the nave by an arch of stone. On the summit of the west gable is another small stone arch, in which a bell is hung; the rope coming through into the church is mentioned as bespeaking the antiquity of the edifice, being probably built in the time of the Saxons.

From Bodney we turn to the left, and join our road at **THREXTON**, or **THRASTON**, an ancient village, which, in Blomefield's time, was reduced to one house only, in which, he says, "Mr. Knopwood now dwells, and

occupies the whole town, which he is said to have lately purchased." In the Confessor's and Conqueror's time this manor was held by Hugh, of William de Warren. The steeple of the church is low and round, and in the south window are the arms of Clare Earl of Gloucester, and those of Tony and Beauchamp.

MERTON, or MARTIN, as it has been called, lies a mile and a half to the south-east of Threxton, and derived its name from some mere or standing water, and was long in the possession of the De Greys, the descendants of Ancitil or Anschitil de Grey, a Norman, who came in with the Conqueror. His son Richard de Grey was a benefactor to Eynesham Abbey, and was succeeded by John de Grey, his son and heir, whose second brother, John de Grey, was bishop of Norwich; his third brother was also in great favour with Richard I. The church at Merton is dedicated to St. Peter: the north and south windows opposite to each other contained the coat of De Grey, or Cornerth, quartered with Bainard, which was erected in 1403. In a south window, at the upper end of the church, were the effigies of St. Edmund in his princely robes, holding an arrow in his left hand; lower, in the same window, was the representation of Sir Robert Clifton kneeling, in his mantle and coat, quartered with Cailly's, a book behind him, and in a scroll from his mouth, "Sancte Edmunde, ora pro nobis." The steeple of the church is round, and contains three bells; the roof is flat, but formerly was pyramidal.

Merton Park, near the village of Merton, now the seat of Lord Walsingham, was formerly that of the ancient family of the Greys. The mansion, which is built in the Gothic or pointed style, stands in an extensive park, diversified with rich plantations, and the whole has been highly improved by its recent possessors.

THOMPSON lies still further to the south-east. When Norwich Domesday-book was made, it appears there was a college of secular canons or chaplains here, living in a collegiate manner. Here was a guild, dedicated to the Trinity, and a light kept burning before the image of St. Mary; but the college of Thompson had its first rise from the Bottetourts, lords of this place, and was originally supported by them without any endowment. In 1369, Joan, widow of Sir John de Shardlowe, knt. took upon her the vow of chastity, and became a religious votary in this college, where she died. The manner in which this vow was taken has been thus described: "She appeared before Thomas Percy, Bishop of Norwich, in the private chapel of his manor-house at Thornage, and, during mass, kneeling before the prelate, the Archdeacon of Norfolk, Sir Simon de Babingle, and William de Swinefleete, supposed to be witnesses to the transaction, joining her hands, the bishop took them into his: she then pronounced her vow in these words: I Joan, late the wife of Johan de Shardelow, vow and promise to God, to our Lady St. Mary, St. Martin, and all saints, to live in perpetual chastity during the term of my life. I promise the same to you, reverend father in God, Bishop of Norwich, in your presence, and in the presence of Sir Thomas Shardlowe, knt., Sir John Grene, master of the chantry of Thomestone, John Clovyll, and others."

The church has a square tower, and a south chapel: the vestry has been long in ruins; but the old stalls, in which the masters and fellows used to sit, with the arms of Shardlowe upon them, mullets, cinquefoils, &c. are still visible. Here is Buttort or Butters Hall.

STOW BEDON lies about a mile eastward. This was the residence of the ancient family of the Spelmans, several of whom have been interred in the church: this consists of a nave and a chancel, and has a square

tower that contains three bells. It is dedicated to St. Butolph, and was appropriated to the abbess of Marham, and had a guild dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

BRECCLES is not quite a mile to the south. Here we observe an ancient steeple, which is round at the bottom, with an octangular summit, joined to the west end of the church. An inscription in this church is placed over the bodies of John Webb, esq. and Mary his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Richardson, lord chief justice of England. She died March 10, 1656, aged 56; he, October 25, 1658, aged 70 years. Near this lies a small oval black marble, with these words only, STAT UT VIXIT. This is placed over the coffin of Ursula Webb, daughter of the said John Webb, esq., and Mary Richardson, wife of Sir William Hewyt, knt., who was interred here, in an upright posture, by her own desire, according to the expression of the inscription. By her lies her husband, under a black marble, on which are the arms of Hewyt, &c. Breccles Hall is a fine old manor-house.

We now turn westward, and observe the villages of Tottington, Sturston, and Stanford, lying on a line.

TOTTINGTON. The church here is a spacious structure, containing a nave and two aisles: the tower is square, and has four bells. A great part of the churchyard wall is topped with large coffin stones, with crosses of various forms on them: these were formerly laid over the vicars and other religious persons buried here; but since removed from their graves, and applied as a kind of stone coping. The heads of the seats in the interior of this church are all carved; and on the back of one of them is an orate for Walter Salter and his wife, who lived in Richard III.'s time. This family had a good estate; they resided here upwards of two hundred years, and were lords of a small manor in this parish, called Bokenhams, or Machams. Mr. Blomefield mentions a barn about two furlongs north-

west of Tottington church, which was moated in, and had a good fishery belonging to it. Near this were the ruins of the old manor-house.

STURSTON. This decayed village, situated in the north-east angle of the hundred, at the time of the survey belonged to Ralph Bainard, a powerful baron, who came in with William the Norman. The church is dedicated to the Holy Cross, and stands a little south of the old manor-house: it is a small pile, built of flint, &c. From the foundation stones at the east end, there appears to have been a chancel. The low tower of flint at the west end has been long in a ruinous state. This church was formerly well endowed; but when Blomefield wrote, the officiating curate was allowed only six pounds per annum.

STANFORD brings us back to our road. The church here, dedicated to All Saints, is built of brick, and was a good pile of building till it was suffered to go to decay. It consisted of a nave, north and south aisles, and a chancel. The aisles seem to have been additions to the body of the church, erected by pious persons as chapels or chantries, long since decayed. The tower of flint at the west end of the nave is round towards the base, and octangular at the summit. This church formerly contained the arms of the Earls of Clare, Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, Mortimer of Atteburgh, those of England, and Fitz John.

BUCKENHAM TOFTS, or LITTLE BUCKENHAM, lies a short way to our right. This lordship, in the reign of James I., belonged to the family of Rich, and in 1614, Sir Robert Rich, afterwards Earl of Warwick, was presented as lord; but the hall was built by Mr. Vincent, who, being a humorist, erected a lofty lantern or turret on the top of his house, and caused a fish-pond to be made there, in a basin of lead, to which the water was conveyed by an engine from a canal in the gardens, and which also supplied every room in

the house. His stabling is said to have been elegant; but, mortgaging the whole to Sir Thomas Meers, it came eventually to the honourable Philip Howard, brother to the Duke of Norfolk, who made it his residence. The site of the church of Buckenham Parva, dedicated to St. Andrew, is said to have been at the upper end of the canal, in the gardens, near the gardener's house.

LINFORD lies between Mundford and Buckenham Parva. Here, in building a house for Mr. Nelthorpe, in 1720, two Roman urns were dug up; and, in 1735, his gardener, digging in the plantation west of the house, came to a pavement of flint stones, and under these he found another small urn, containing ashes and pieces of bones. Mr. Nelthorpe's house being built at a small distance from the old hall, the latter was converted into a farm-house. Linford Hall was the seat of the late Rice James, esq. The church, long since demolished, stood in the court-yard belonging to the new hall; but its site was enclosed, and planted with Scotch firs.

WEST TOFTS lies about a mile south of Linford. The church here is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a very ancient building of flint stone, &c. The tower was begun about the end of Henry VI.'s reign, or in the beginning of that of Edward IV.: round the water table is an account of the benefactors, cut in stone, and in old characters. The chancel being of equal height with the nave, and having no separating arch, is an indication of the antiquity of the whole pile, being divided only by a screen. Caston's shield is in the upper window of the chancel on the south side. In the wall on the south side, where formerly was an altar, is a place for holy water. The north aisle has an ascent at the east end, where there was another altar. At the west end of the nave is a large square tower of flint, coped and embattled with quoins of freestone,

containing four bells. In 1720, an oaken coffin was found in a moist springy place in the town of West Tofts: in it were the bones of the person interred; and a representation of a face, cut either in jet or Lancashire coal, with a hole through the upper part of it, and also a blue cypher, which seemed to have been set in a ring; besides these were several blue irregular beads, with a broken golden ferrule, which the workmen said slipped off a small piece of wood. This probably belonged to some small crucifix. West Tofts Hall is the seat of — Moseley, esq.; and here is Buckenham House, that of Lord Petre.

We now proceed to

MUNDFORD, through which runs the London road: this place lies on the south of the Wissey. Here is a good bridge over the river, at a little distance from Mundford. This lordship was given to the monastery of Ely, in the reign of King Edgar, by Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester; and in the time of the Saxons there can be no doubt the Wissey was fordable here and at Linford. The manor, or part of the town called West Hall, was held in the reign of Henry II. by Gerald, the king's chamberlain. Here is also the manor of East Hall. Mundford church is dedicated to St. Leonard; it is a single pile of flint, &c.: the nave is about 60 feet in length, and in breadth about 26. The square tower at the west end is embattled, and has a coping of freestone, with quoins, &c. A wooden screen divides the body of the church from the chancel, upon which is the king's arms carved in stone; but there are no shields of any others remaining.

ICKBURGH lies on the north side of the river Wissey, directly opposite to Mundford, and has also the advantage of having the London road to Swaffham, Walsingham, &c. running through it. Dr. Gale, in his Commentary on Antoninus, makes Ickburgh a Roman

station ; of the same opinion was the learned Mr. Talbot. It is certain that the distance between this town and that of Bury, generally agreed to be the Villa Faustini, exactly answers the measurement given by Antoninus, whether we go through Brandon or Thetford ; and that the road here leading to Swaffham is broad, straight and level, having an air of antiquity and grandeur. It is further conjectured that the *Milliare*, which was lately to be seen, was the *prima ab urbe lapis*. Sir Henry Spelman further remarks, that the *Iceni*, by which name this part of the heptarchy was distinguished in the time of the Saxons, is a British term, partly adopted by the Romans ; but originally derived from the river Ise, or Ichen ; and it is not a little remarkable, that most of the rivers in Norfolk, with very little variation in sound, still retain the same name. Thus the great river that flows between Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, emptying itself into the sea near Lynn, is called the Ouse Magna : that which divides the south-west of this county from Suffolk is called the Ouse Parva ; and a third, which is in a great measure the boundary of the hundred of Grimeshoe, between those of Clackclose and South Greenhoe, is called the Wissey, which certainly comes very near the British word Ise. On the north side of this Ise, or Wissey, stands the town of Ichebure, as it is written in Domesday-book, which, in other words, is a town or burgh on the Ise. The church here is an old single pile of flint and pebbles, and has been covered with reed ; it was first dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and afterwards to St. Peter. At the west end is a square tower of the same materials as the church, with quoins and battlements of freestone. Several shields have been painted on the cornice that divides the church from the chancel ; but these are mostly defaced by the hand of time. In the east window of the chancel is the image of St. Catherine, and that of the Virgin in another on the north

side. On the pavement lie several marble gravestones, some ridged, with crosses floral cut on them, in memory of some ancient rectors. The south part of the town of Ickburgh contained a hermitage, or house of lepers, which in old writings is frequently called the House of Lepers at the new bridge at Ickburgh. This hospital was founded and endowed by William Barenton, in the reign of Edward I. and was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Lawrence: the chapel belonging to it was built of flint and boulder, about 30 feet in length, and 20 in breadth; but, having an additional building at the west end, was at length converted into a farmhouse.

It has been observed, that hermitages, or rather these begging stations, were mostly erected near great bridges and high roads, and not unfrequently in churchyards, in towns of considerable note. Accordingly, a mayor of Sudbury, and others, partial to those sainted idlers, in the benighted times in which they lived, petitioned the Bishop of Norwich "to permit one of them, John Levington, to dwell in the solitary place, made for him at the cost of the parish, in the churchyard of St. Gregory's church."

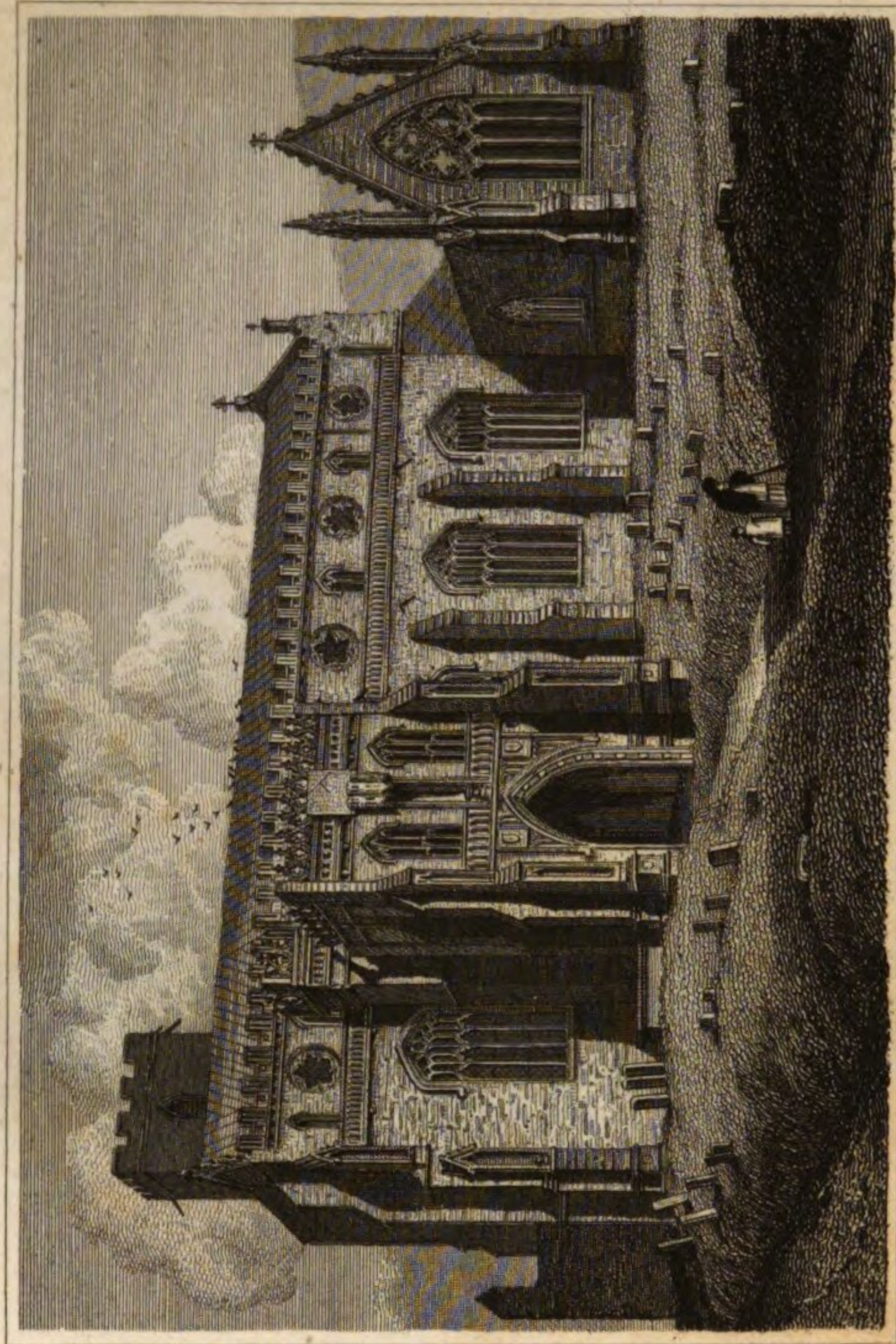
From Ickburgh a good road leads to Hilborough: on our way thither we pass

LANGFORD. The church here is dedicated to St. Andrew, and stands near the manor-house. It is an ancient flint fabric, as appears from the old arch over the south door, and another that separates the nave from the chancel; both of these are cambered and plastered. A square tower at the west end is embattled, and contains one bell. A pannel of glass in the east window of the chancel contains the broken effigies of one of the Methwolds, a lord of this town, in complete armour, with his arms, &c. on his shield; the same shield also appears in a south window, and in another on the north are the effigies of St. Catherine.

A park belonged to the manor-house, which was many years since converted into a farm. Against the north wall of the chancel is a large monument of marble and alabaster, raised altar-wise, with a back, or wall-piece. Upon this is extended the effigies of Sir Nicholas Garrard, leaning on his right hand in the dress and habit of an ancient Roman; at his back is a pedestal, and on that an urn with a flame. The effigies of Sir Thomas Garrard, and Sir Jacob Garrard, barts., stand one on each side of the pedestal, and there are inscriptions of considerable length upon these three knights. Opposite this monument, on the south wall, several insignia of honour are fixed, as the shield, mantle, torse, helmet, spurs and sword, and several banners. Upon the custom of adorning churches with these insignia, it is remarked by Burton, that a sword was hung up in the church at the funeral of a knight, and not of any person under that degree; because knights at their first dubbing, in former times, took an oath to defend religion and the church; and, as a testimony of this, the sword was allowed to be hung up there. "The Lady Wicke brought an action in the King's Bench against the parson in St. Margaret's, Lothbury, in London, for having taken away a coat armour, and certain pennons, with the arms of Sir Hugh Wicke, her husband, once lord mayor of London, who died in the seventh year of Edward IV., and a sword out of the chapel where he was buried. The parson pleaded that these arms, &c. were matters of offering and oblations, and therefore of right did belong to him; but Justice Yelverton held it no plea, and that the arms were not intended as offerings or oblations, but were hung up in honour of the deceased, and therefore do not belong to the parsons. And if the parson has not a right to take these down in his chancel, when once hung up, no other person can lay any pretence or claim to them."

HILBOROUGH, or Hilburgh. The church here is a small but regular pile, dedicated to All Saints; it consists of a nave, north and south aisles, and a chancel, built of flint, &c. The roof of the nave is supported by pillars, forming six arches, three on a side, with windows over each arch. On the head of a seat in the nave is a shield, with a shepherd's crook in pale, between four annulets, and on the pavement lie two small marbles with orates inscribed on them. The porch of this church is constructed of flint, and is embellished with the letter M., and swords with their points erected, and crowns over them, of the same kind as those at Cressingham Magna. In the east window of the vestry, which had been long in ruins, Mr. Blomefield observed the remains of two old shattered shields, azure, two trumpets, their labia meeting in the base point, &c. A strong square tower of flint, with quoins of freestone, and embattlements, four carved pinnacles, &c. stands at the west end of the nave. This contains five bells. On the west side of this tower are two large niches for statues, one on each side the great door; on the right side of the arch of the door are the effigies of a man in armour, his hands decayed by time; on the left are those of a savage, or wild man, bearing in his right hand the head of a man couped, and in his left a ragged staff, or baton, all carved in stone. Over the arch of the door is the shield of John de Clifton, who flourished in the reign of Edward III.: he was, no doubt, the founder of this church.

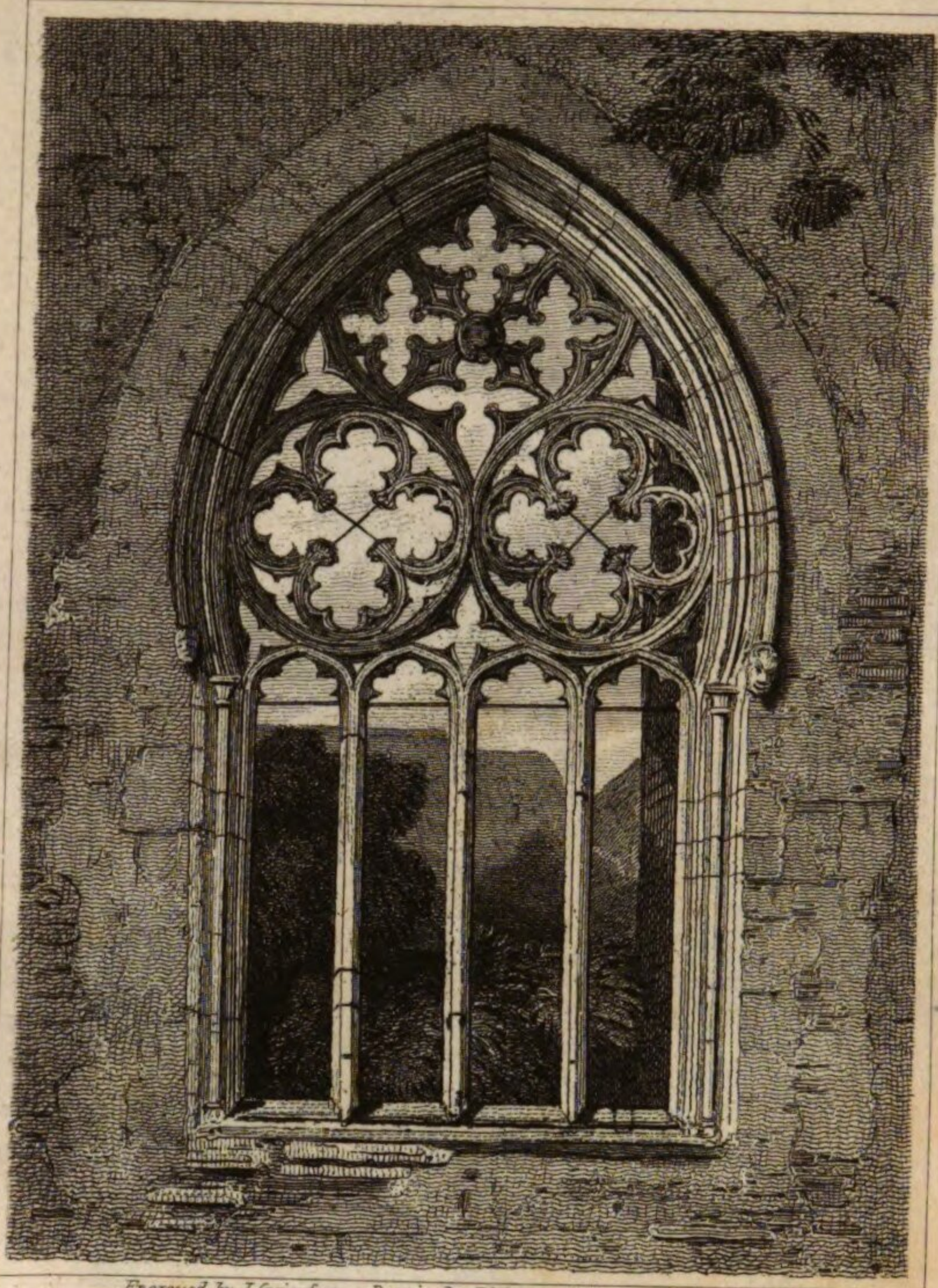
In a grass close at the north-west end of Hilburgh stands the chapel of St. Margaret, built of flint and boulder. It is in length about 36 feet by 20; the arched windows at the east and west are the only ones remaining; but, though a low plain pile, it has the face of great antiquity. A chapel here, which was dissolved in the reign of Edward VI., was called, by the tradition of



Engraved by W. Deasile from a Drawing by J. S. Gorman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**CLEY CHURCH,
NORFOLK.**

Pub. 4 Oct. 1848 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by J.S. Cotman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

A South Window
CLEY CHURCH,
NORFOLK.

Pub. 2 May 1829 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

the neighbourhood, the Pilgrims Chapel, it being most probably visited by them in their way to Walsingham. It is supposed to have been very richly endowed, as above 100 acres of land belonged to it in the parish of Hilburgh; these were held by the tenure of finding wax tapers, &c. for the chapel. This appeared from a field-book in the possession of Mr. Wace, one of the owners, who used this chapel as a barn to deposit his hay. We observe Hilborough Hall, the pleasant seat of R. Caldwell, esq.

Pursuing our way towards the north-west, we arrive at

COCKLEY CLEY. Here is the manor of East Hall, and that of Earl Warren. The church stands at the west end of the town, and is built chiefly of flint: at the west end of the nave is a round tower of the same materials, embattled with freestone. The chancel is separated from the nave by a screen of wood, and the communion-table is railed in. St. Mary's chapel, a very ancient pile, has been many years since converted into a house for the rector. It is cased with flint, and appears much more antique than the mother church, which is dedicated to All Saints. The nave or body is loftier than the chancel part, which, according to the Danish style, is in the form of a crescent. An old arch at the east end is still remaining, with a window that lights the part used for a kitchen. About the walls of the nave several small arches are observable in the places of the old windows. This chapel Sir William de Valeyns kept for his own use in the reign of Henry III.: he was descended from Gilbert de Blund, or Blount, who came over with the Conqueror: this Sir William was killed in the battle of Lewes, in Sussex. Soon after 1553 the chapel was made into a house for the rector of All Saints. A well on the north side of this being cleared in 1731, the remains of three persons were found as they had been

laid when buried. Many human bones have also been dug up in the garden. St. Peter's church stood at the east end of Cley, and the remains of the flint wall that enclosed the churchyard are still to be seen. Several guilds were held in this edifice. Here is a handsome seat of J. R. Dashwood, esq.

We now turn to the westward, and two miles from Cley arrive at

GOODESTON, by some writers thought to have been Godric's town, from Goderic the Sewer, lord of it by the Conqueror's gift. The church, dedicated to St. George, is built of flint and boulder, and consists of a nave, a south aisle, and a chancel. At the west end of this is a large square tower of flint, with quoins and embattlements of freestone. The south aisle has been a chantry, or chapel, belonging to St. George's guild. Against a pillar on the left hand is a large stone pedestal, placed there for the patron saint. In the upper pannel of the east window is the bust of the Saviour, and under it angels sounding the last trump. The chancel is divided from the nave by a lofty screen, which, being carved and full of imagery, has been well painted and gilt. On the panels the twelve apostles, with a cardinal and a bishop, are represented. At the west end of the chancel are three stalls on each side, where the chaplains and chantry priests had their seats when joining the choir at canonical hours. Against the south wall, near the end, there have been three seats of stone, one above the other. Several guilds were also held in this church.

Adjoining to this place is

OXBURGH, situated on the little river Wissey. It appears to have been a place of some note in the time of the Romans, from the coins found there; and in that of the Danes it also seems have been in royal hands. Some tumuli in the neighbourhood, it is evident, were formerly called the Danes' Graves by the common

people. In the third of Edward I., Nicholas de Weyland was lord; and in the twelfth of that reign, a grant of a market and fair here was confirmed to him; and in the year following he had the grant of another fair for two days, on the vigil and day of the Assumption; also one for eight days every year, on the vigil morrow after the Annunciation, and for five days following, and of free warren in all his demesnes. In the fifteenth of the said king, Sir Nicholas de Weyland, knt. had allowed him the privileges of frankpledge, assize of bread and beer, gallows, pillory, tumbrel, wefts, and strays; from which it is inferred that Oxburgh was then a place of some consequence, being above a mile and a half long from the closes near Goodstone common to the entrance of the low ground by Oxburgh Hythe. According to the court rolls of the manor, both these fairs were kept regularly every year till about the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Edmund, the son of Sir Thomas Tudenham, was so highly in favour with Henry VII. for his eminent services, that he paid him a royal visit at Oxburgh, and the room where he lodged was called the king's room ever after. This Sir Edmund had a royal patent from Edward IV., dated July 3, 1482, to build the manor-house or hall of Oxburgh in *more castelli*, the manner of a castle, with towers, battlements, &c., and for a weekly market and a court of pie-poudre, to be held by the steward or bailiff of the said market.

This ancient seat, a little to the south-west of Oxburgh church, being built of brick, bears much resemblance to Queen's College, Cambridge, erected in the same year. The entrance to this house is over a bridge of brick, with three great arches, formerly built over one of wood. The arch of the tower to which this bridge leads is about 22 feet long, and 13 broad. It is ornamented with four turrets, one at each corner; the two in front are about 80 feet, or more, from the

foundation in the moat to the summit, and about 10 feet above the great tower. The court is 118 feet long, and 92 broad. The hall is opposite to the great tower, on the south side of the court: this is 54 feet long, and 54 in breadth, between the two bow-windows; the roof is of oak, and in the same style as that of Westminster Hall. The exterior walls of the house stand in the moat, a fine running stream from an adjoining rivulet, about 270 feet long, and 52 broad, which may be increased or diminished as occasion may serve. This mansion contains several spacious and convenient rooms, a neat library, a variety of paintings by ancient masters, and a collection of ancient arms. This venerable seat is the property and residence of Sir Richard Bedingfield, bart.

The two bow-windows, and the whole exterior of this part of the building, appear to be in their original state. The floor of the great room is paved with fine small bricks, and the walls covered with very curious tapestry, exhibiting several figures of princes, ladies, and gentlemen. This appears to have been of the age of Henry VII. The eastern turret contains a curious small closet, called a hiding-place; it is a cavity or hollow in the solid wall, measuring six feet by five, and is seven feet high, and is approached by a secret passage through the floor. The great hall that resembled Westminster Hall, and other rooms which formed the south side of the court, were taken down in 1778, since which period the distribution of almost every room has been changed. The offices are on the east side, and the dining-parlour, drawing-room, and library, on the west.

The church of Oxburgh is dedicated to St. John Baptist, and is a spacious and regular building, consisting of middle, north, and south aisles; its length from the west door to the chancel is about 88 feet, and its breadth, including the aisles, about 53. The

whole structure is of flint stone, and seems to have been raised about the time of Edward I. The square tower is curiously wrought, with quoins and battlements, and supports a lofty octangular spire, 150 feet in height, containing five musical bells. The east window of the chancel, which reaches from the altar to the roof, has been richly ornamented with stained glass: the lower pannels contained the birth, death, resurrection, &c. of the Saviour. In the next compartments were figures of the Virgin Mary, &c. and in the upper the nine orders of angels. The roof is impanelled with oak, carved with various figures and devices. In the south aisle is a chapel, or chantry, built in 1573, belonging to the Bedingfield family. An ancient sculptured stone screen separates the chapel from the aisle, and exhibits one of the earliest specimens of revived Grecian architecture. The roof of the nave is supported by octangular stone pillars, forming twelve large arches, six on a side, with windows over them. A large porch, the roof of which has been painted, is annexed to the east end; and here was also a chapel, dedicated to St. Anne. On the north side is the vestry, built of flint, &c.; and at the end of the south wall a neatly wrought and arched seat of stone, for the bishop, priest, and deacon: in the cornice, which is embattled, are little angels, which have been gilded, several small shields, &c. The ancient monuments here are very interesting; round an inscription upon one of the Bedingfields are several knots and horses' fetterlocks, or badges, made use of by that family. The fetterlock, it has been observed, was the badge of the house of York, and by some grant might have been given to the Bedingfields for their attachment. It also appears from an old inventory of Oxburgh Hall, that there was a particular room called by the name of the Fetter-

lock. This badge was devised by the Duke of York, fifth son of King Edward III.

Mr. Blomefield adds, that about half a mile south-west of the present church, and near the rectory-house, stand the remains of the ancient parochial or mother church, being a single building of flint, &c. with a finishing over, and four large buttresses of freestone, a plain rude edifice about 34 feet in length, and 20 in breadth, much resembling the appearance of the church at Glastonbury, as exhibited by Sir Henry Spelman. From a Saxon coin found here, of the reign of Edelred or Eldred, who reigned in the year 946, this church is supposed to have been erected about that time. The greater part of the old pile is still entire, with the arches of the east and west windows; but the western part has been a dovehouse from time immemorial. To this old church belonged a very large churchyard, containing three or four acres of ground; and an incredible number of bones and skulls having been dug up, it is inferred that in those early days the parish was very large. As an apology for small churches sometimes in large places, it is remarked, "that if there were but room for an altar, and for a small number to hear mass, it was sufficient; preaching in those days being often in the churchyards, as under the oak in St. Clement's Churchyard, the Green Yard at Norwich, and at Paul's Cross in London."

The chantry at Oxburgh was well endowed; and the house in which the priest dwelt is described as a great building a little east of the church, which had a large hall, with screens, butteries, &c. adjoining, as in a college, enclosed next the street with a long and high wall, with battlements and copings of freestone. The entrance was through a lofty arch.

About two miles from this town, in the road to Cley, near Langwade Cross, was a house of lepers.

Thomas Salmon, chaplain of Oxburgh, in 1380, gave by will to the chapel of St. Mary 3s. 4d., and to the lazars at Langwade 6d. An ancient family of this name took it from the long wade or passage here over the river, which runs into the Lesser Ouse, is navigable to a place called the Hithe, and by which a communication is formed between Cambridge and Lynn.

From the ancient wills of persons buried here, the county historian has observed that several particulars may be learned relative to the guilds belonging to the church of Oxburgh. These were called *gilds*, from the Saxon word *gild*, or *geld*, signifying money; because a guild is a society, or fraternity, associating themselves either upon the account of charity, religion, or trade; and they contributed money, goods, and often lands, for the support of their common charges. Besides their frequent meetings, they had their grand anniversary, or saint's day. They generally maintained a priest, or priests, to sing mass and celebrate divine service for the souls of the king and queen, and those of the living and dead of their fraternity. The guilds were mostly licensed by the crown, and consisted of a custos, alderman, or master, and as many men or women in the township or neighbourhood as thought fit to join their fraternity. The warden or alderman, with the majority, were empowered to make an annual choice of a warden and other officers. As a corporate body they had power to purchase lands, for the maintenance of their chaplains, who were to pray at the altar belonging to them at the parish church. Several of the nobility, bishops, and other eminent persons, thought it no dishonour to belong to the guilds, and sued for admission with great reverence. They took an oath to be good and true to the masters and all the brethren. Upon some of their anniversaries they had twelve priests to sing a dirige, for which they had four-pence a piece; they

had also twelve minstrels, who had 2s. 3d., besides their diet and horsemeat. At one of these feasts, in the twenty-third of Henry VI., they had six calves, valued at 2s. 2d. a piece; 16 lambs at 12d. a piece; 80 capons, 3d. a piece; 80 geese, 2d. a piece; 800 eggs at 5d. the hundred, with many marrow-bones, cream, flour, &c., besides what their servants and other persons brought in. Pageants, plays, and May games were also exhibited to captivate the multitude. At these dinners, however, they had two prices, as those who sat paid a higher rate than those that stood. The plays were, in fact, histories of the Old and New Testament. A specimen of one of them, called *Corpus Christi*, is preserved in Stephens' additions to the Monasticon. These guilds distributed annual charities, stipends to indigent persons, found beds and entertainment for poor people that were strangers, besides appointing servants to attend them. The houses for these entertainments were generally near the church; and one of them, on the south side of that of Oxburgh, in old writings, is positively called the Guild Hall. On the east side was another belonging to *Corpus Christi*, the ceilings being painted and beautified with the representation of the Saviour, the five wounds, &c. The ceremonial observed on the festal days at these guilds, or societies, are curious, as shewing how scrupulously the distinctions of rank were kept up in those rude times; for instance, according to the regulations of a very famous guild in the county of Norfolk, none of the brethren might come into the guild with cap or hood on, or barefoot. Every servant, too, coming to speak to his master, was obliged to leave his cloak with the porter, and depart forthwith; and if this occurred at the time of drinking, he might drink once or twice, provided he did not sit, and then depart.

FOULDON. The church here is a regular structure, having a north and south aisle; the roof of the nave

is of oak, and the whole church is supported by large octangular pillars, which form four lofty arches on each side. Above are six windows, three on a side. The tower, of flint, is square, having quoins and battlements of freestone, decorated with eight carved stone pinnacles. A large arched monument on the foundation of the south aisle, facing the churchyard, partly covered by the arch, and partly by the wall, is supposed to have been made for the founder of the church, which seems to have been built about the reign of Edward I. Some of the monuments here are interesting performances for the time of their erection. Among the rectors we find, in the year 1316, Reginald de Cusancia, presented by the prior and convent of Lewes, in Sussex: in 1326, he had licence to be absent on his own affairs and those of his church for one year. He was probably an Italian: foreigners were in these times admitted to livings, insomuch that a petition was presented by the commons in parliament, in the second of Edward III., "that all alien monks do avoid the realm by Michaelmas, and that their livings be disposed of to young English scholars; and that such aliens as are advanced to livings, they being in their own countries but shoemakers, tailors, or chamberlains to cardinals, may depart the realm as aforesaid."

DIDLINGTON is about a mile south of Fouldon. In the Conqueror's time it consisted of two manors, one held by the Earl Warren, the other by Ralph Lord Lemesey. Since that period the family of the Holditches have been lords for a long succession of time. Didlington church is a regular structure, with a nave and north and south aisles. At the lower end of the nave a marble gravestone, about ten feet long and five in breadth, is very curiously cut: this has no legible inscription, but is supposed to have belonged to some of the Holditches. The windows of the north aisle

are ornamented with blue glass, and cinquefoils of gold, in reference to some of the Bardolphs; the arms of one of these also appear in the east window of the south aisle. In the middle window are the remains of two figures, one of which has an antique gown flowered with roses; and over the head, which is broken off, the letter H. for Howard. The chancel is divided from the nave by an ancient screen. Didlington Hall is the seat of Robert Wilson, esq.

COLVESTON, or Coulston, about a mile further south, lies on the opposite shore to Cranwich, on the north of the river Wissey. The church has been in ruins from time immemorial; it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and formerly belonged to St. Bartholomew of Ickburgh, as the mother church. Colveston is a rectory, consolidated with the vicarage of Didlington: the real value of both is but 40*l.* per annum, no tenths or first fruits being paid.

CRANWICH, at which we rejoin the road, lies on the south of the river Wissey. In the reign of Henry I. Peter de Cranwich was lord; soon after this the Caillys, or Cayleys, were lords. The church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, is a rude old building of flint, boulder, &c., but rather small. The tower of flint, at the west end, is supposed to have been built by the Danish king Harold, of whom it is observed, one of his freemen held a moiety of the town in the time of King Edward the Confessor.

WEETING lies considerably to the southward, on the south part of the hundred of Grimshoe, where it is divided from Suffolk by the Little Ouse. Bromehill priory stood about a mile south-east of the town. A farm-house, called Bromehill House, arose out of its ruins. The conventual church here, it appears, was a long narrow building; and several stone coffins have been dug up on the spot since the suppression. Bromehill priory was dedicated to the Virgin Mary

and St. Thomas a Becket, and is supposed to have been founded by Sir Hugh de Plaiz, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustin, in or about the reign of King John. This priory, by a bull of Pope Clement VII., in May, 1528, was granted to Cardinal Wolsey. The church of Weeting All Saints stands at the north-east end of the town, and has a nave and a north aisle: the roof of the former is of oak, and the principals are supported by figures of religious persons, which have been long since defaced. The chancel is separated from the nave by a wooden screen, the panels of which have borne the painted figures of saints. One of the windows is ornamented in several parts with leopards' heads, &c.

WEETING ST. MARY is nearly contiguous. The church, which stood in the south part of the town, fell into ruins in consequence of the fall of the tower, almost a century since. It was built of flint and chalk; and after it fell, it appeared that the nave was divided by a neat and lofty arch that remained. The area of the chancel has been long ago overgrown with nettles, &c. In a close near the churchyard of Weeting All Saints are the venerable ruins of a large square castle of flint, stone, &c. the seat of the family of De Plaiz, which has been moated round. An eminence at one corner is supposed to have been the keep. About two miles east of the town are the tumuli, &c. called Grime's Graves. A bank rises on the west side of the town, from the edge of the fen, called the Foss, which, running some miles, parts Weeting from Walton and Feltwell. A green way in the fields north of Weeting is called Walsingham Way, being used by pilgrims to the Lady or Madonna of that place. Here was formerly a stone cross, which, after it was broken in two, was called the Stump Crosses. Weeting Hall is the seat of — Angerstein, esq. Two miles to the east of Weeting, on a rising ground, is a large encamp-

ment, comprising about twelve acres: here are numerous deep pits, having the largest in the centre, capable of containing a considerable body of men, and concealing them from the view of persons passing the road.

WILTON lies west of Weeting. The church is rather a small structure of flint and boulder; a strong tower of the same materials is embattled with freestone, which contains five bells, with an octangular spire of stone. On the north side is a curiously worked arch, without any inscription, but probably intended for the burial-place of the founder. Behind the communion-table is an old wainscot partition, which runs the breadth of the chancel. Upon one of the panels two priests are represented kneeling at an altar, with their books open before them; upon another is the figure of St. John the Evangelist with a cup, and a dragon coming out of it, and on a label, *In principis erat verbum*; under him is a man kneeling, and this label, *Ora pro nobis beate Jacobe*. On a third panel is the figure of St. John Baptist, with a lamb, &c., and a label, *Ecce Agnus Dei*, &c. Here also are the arms of Lord Scales, Lord Poinings, Lord Arundel, Earl Warren, and St. George.

Proceeding along this side of the hundred, we arrive at

HOCKWOLD. This village was long distinguished by a little peddling fair, the remains of the wake, or dedication day of Wilton church. That of Hockwold is dedicated to St. Peter. On the pavement are several marble gravestones to the memory of the family of Mundefords; but the brasses have all been stolen. At the upper end of the church are three arches of stone, forming three seats in the wall for the bishop, priest, and deacon, and at the head of them another arch for holy water. Upon the summit of these arches are some ancient shields, which have been daubed over with

whitening. Here are also several ordinary monuments and inscriptions. Hockwold Hall is the seat of Edward Billingsley, esq.

Turning to the northward, we pass

FELTWELL. The church of St. Nicholas here stands at the west end of the town; it is a small pile of flint and pebbles. On the south wall of the nave are letters wrought in stone, in memory of John Do and Thomas Day, benefactors to that work. The tower is round at the bottom, and octangular at top: this church was in a great measure rebuilt in 1494. St. Mary's church here is a regular pile of flint, boulder, &c. consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle: the roof of the nave is of oak, and on the principals are the effigies of several religious; the roof is supported by pillars formed of four pilasters connected, making ten handsome arches, five on a side, with as many windows over them. The tower at the west end is large and lofty, embattled with four pinnacles. The effigies and inscriptions shew that several of the Mundefords family have been interred here.

METHWOLD brings us back to the high road. This place formerly had a considerable market, on Tuesdays. The warren in the vicinity has long been famous for its rabbits, and the damage done by them has occasioned several suits at law: an immense number of these animals, it seems, are still brought to market. In this parish was situated the priory of Slevesholm, called Slusham; this was a cell to the monastery of Castle Acre. Methwold church is a regular pile, with a nave, north and south aisles, a chancel of flint, pebble-stones, &c. The roof of the nave is supported by fluted pillars of stone, forming four lofty arches on each side, and an equal number of windows. Mr. Blomefield, in describing an arch of stone and brick, where the saint's bell formerly hung, observes, "this was not called so from the

saint's name that was inscribed on it, nor from the saint to whom the church was dedicated; but because it was always rung out when the priest came to that part of the service, *Sancte, sancte, sancte Domine, Deus Sabaoth*, purposely that they who could not come to church might understand what a solemn office the congregation were then engaged in, and so to be moved to lift up their hearts to Him that made them." For this reason the saint's bell was generally hung where it might be heard furthest; sometimes in a lantern at the top of the steeple, or in a turret at one corner of it, if a tower; sometimes thrust out of the uppermost window, if a spire; and sometimes in an arch, or gallows, on the outside of the roof, between the church and chancel: the latter was so contrived that the bell might be the more readily rung when the priest came to the words Holy, holy, &c. It was also a maxim in the Romish church, that on the consecration and elevation of the host notice should be given in every church by the sound of a bell, that the faithful not present should be put in mind of this great mystery. The tower of this church is embattled, and coped with freestone, and embellished with a pinnacle at each corner. Upon this square tower, built with flint, and which contains five bells, is raised another of an octangular form, and out of this a neat octangular spire, or pyramid, of crocket work, ascends; on the summit of this is a vane. The market here is on Tuesday, the number of houses 174, the inhabitants 942, and the fair on the 23d of April.

NORTHWOLD lies on the south of the river Wissey, about a mile and a half from Methwold, on our road. The church of this village has a handsome, lofty, quadrangular tower, built of flint, with freestone quoins and battlements, and eight richly carved pinnacles at the summit; and, as it appears from the will of John Miller, of Weeting, dated in 1478, was erected in the

time of Edward IV. It is dedicated to St. Andrew. Against the north wall of the chancel is a lofty shrine, constructed of clunch, and decorated with curious workmanship. The upper part is in the spire tabernacle style, consisting of arched canopies over several niches that originally contained images. On the lower part, which forms an altar tomb, are three effigies of men in armour, and three trees in a declining position. This, before the Reformation, was called The Sepulchre of our Lord. The man and trees appear to allude to the description of the crucifixion. A sepulchre of this kind was erected in every church of note, and great pomp and pageantry were used before it at high festivals. On Good Fridays the crucifix and the pix were deposited at this sepulchre, and on Easter-days again solemnly removed when the priest came to that part of the service, *Surrexit, non est hic*: He is not here, but risen.

STOKEFERRY lies near the junction of the roads from Thetford and Brandon. Here are the ruins of the ancient church, which was dedicated to All Saints; a decayed little building at the west end of the steeple was probably the station of some hermit.

EASTMORE lies about two miles to the southward. This is a hamlet belonging to the town of Barton; and here was a chapel which Bartholomew de Brancaster gave by a deed *sans date* with his body to the abbey of West Dereham. In this deed the chapel is called the Chapel of St. John Baptist.

SHINGHAM lies at the eastern extremity of Clackclose hundred. The church here, dedicated to St. Botolph, is a very antique building of flint, stone, &c. all of an equal height: instead of a chancel, part of the east end of this structure is taken in with a screen. It is without any tower, having formerly had an arch of stone on the summit of the west gable-end, where a bell hung. From a spring that rises near the spot

runs a rivulet, that separates the hundreds of Clackclose and South Greenhow, and falls into the Wissey.

BEECHAM WELL is nearly contiguous to Shingham: though now but one town, it was, in the Conqueror's time, looked upon as two, distinct and separate; that called Well was the most southern part, near the rivulet that rises at Shingham.

Beecham is remarkable for an ancient Saxon dyke, which extends to Narburgh. This dyke in the third of Edward I. was called Mickeldyke, or the Great Dyke, and the Earl of Gloucester had a gallows between Barton and Beecham.

BEECHAM WELL ALL SAINTS. This church, which has long been in ruins, stood about a quarter of a mile south of the town, in a close near to Well Hall. A great part of the walls, with the east gable of the chancel, were a long time standing, and one or two beautiful monuments distinguished these ruins. This church, Mr. Blomefield observed, has weeds, briars, elders, &c. growing therein, and lies open for cattle to enter. At this place is the seat of John Motteux, esq.

BARTON BENDISH lies two miles to the westward. The church here, dedicated to St. Andrew, is a single pile, built of flint, &c. In a niche over the porch stands a little antique figure of St. Andrew, with a shield and a saltire cross in his right hand. On the sides of this porch the flints are worked into the form of saltires. The east window has on its edges several leopards' heads, fleurs de lis, &c. the arms of Cantelupe, and the antique pavement in the chancel is much distinguished by cinquefoils, stars, mullets, lozenges, &c. St. Mary's church stands at the west end of the town; being crushed by the fall of the tower, it was rebuilt in the reign of Queen Anne. The church of All Saints stands between the churches of St. Mary and St. Andrew, in Barton: it is an ancient pile, built

of flint and boulder, and supported by buttresses of brick. The top is cambered and impanelled with wainscot. The nave is separated from the chancel by a screen. Bendish Hall is a seat of Sir J. Berney, bart.

We now turn to the southward, and rejoin the road at

WEREHAM, or WIREHAM. Wyrn Hall stood in a close at the west side of the lane leading to Wretton. The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and has a nave that is cambered and plastered. A low quadrangular tower has four pinnacles of freestone.

The priory of Winwaloe stood about a mile north-east of the town of Wereham, being founded by the family of one of the Earls of Clare. The remains of this priory, which are chiefly of freestone, seem to have been the old chapel; but afterwards converted into a farm-house. The fair, kept here on the 3d of March, St. Winwaloe's day, used to be noted for the sale of horses and cows; and this being generally a cold and boisterous time of the year, the storms used to be commonly called Whinwall storms, which occasioned this old rhyme relative to the seasons to be frequently quoted in the neighbourhood:

First comes David, then comes Chad;
Then comes Whinwall, as if mad.

To the west of Wereham church, a well, called St. Margaret's, was much frequented in the times of popery. Here, on St. Margaret's day, the people regaled themselves with ale and cakes, music and dancing. Alms were given, and offerings and vows made, at the sainted wells of this kind, which was called well-worship.

We now return to the road, and on our left observe WEST DEREHAM. Here, about a mile south of the parish church, is the abbey, founded in the year 1188,

by Hubert Walter, dean of York, a native of this place, who was successively bishop of Salisbury, archbishop of Canterbury, and lord chancellor, in the reign of Richard I., legate to Pope Celestine IV., and chief justice of England. This abbey was dedicated to God and the Virgin Mary, for monks of the Premonstratensian order. The ancient gate-house, or entrance-tower, is still standing. It is a noble, lofty, quadrangular pile of brick, embattled: from each corner rises an octangular tower, groined with freestone; and over the arch of the gate is a shield bearing azure, three bucks' heads cabossed, the lower one pierced with a crozier staff: the latter were the arms of the abbey. The common seal was of red wax, and of an oblong form. On each side of this elegant gate, Sir Thomas Dereham, who was envoy to the Duke of Tuscany in the year 1697, erected a wing with a cloister on the south, which contained a number of rooms, galleries, &c. in the Italian style. This afterwards became the seat of the Earl of Montrath.

There were formerly two churches in Dereham, St. Andrew's and St. Peter's; of the latter nothing remains but the site. St. Andrew's is a single pile, and has at the west end a large round tower of stone, found in pits in this vicinity, and called ragstone: upon this another is raised of brick, of an octangular form, embattled and coped. Here are several monuments and inscriptions worthy of notice.

DENVER lies two miles to our left, on the high road to Lynn. Here are the manors of East and West Hall. The church is a single pile, built with coarse stone, with a square embattled tower, containing five bells: neither the monuments nor inscriptions here are remarkable.

WEST RUSTON lies rather to the south. Here is Ruston Hall, and about a quarter of a mile distant the church, built of rag or car-stone, being a single

pile, of very ordinary dimensions, and possessing neither monument nor inscription worthy of particular notice. The lordship of Walpole Hall, in this parish, took its name from the Walpole family, some of whom resided here in the reign of Edward II.

FORDHAM, about two miles south of Denver, lies east of the Great Ouse, and north of the Wissey; and here is a causeway over the fenny ground to Hilgay, often overflowed, but fordable, from whence the village probably took its name. Of Snore Hall nothing remained but a part many years since, and this was then a farm-house. The old church, a small pile, falling down in 1730, has been rebuilt.

HILGAY, nearly contiguous, is only remarkable for having had Modeney Priory formerly within its limits: it was about a mile south-west of the church, was a cell to Ramsey abbey, and afterwards called Modeney Hall. The roof of the south aisle has been curiously painted with the arms of benefactors and owners of land here, as Spencer, Bishop of Norwich, Thomas de Brotherton, &c.

SOUTHREY lies in the same direction. The church here, dedicated to St. Mary, is a very antique building, consisting of a nave and chancel; the latter separated from the former by an old wooden screen. The following epitaph is upon a mural monument south of the chancel:

Here rests that just and pious Jane,
That ever hated all that's vain;
Her zeal for God made her desire
T' have dy'd a martyr in the fire,
Or into thousand pieces small
Been cut, to honour God withal:
Her life, right virtuous, modest, sober,
Ended the 7th day of October.

Retracing our road, we return to West Dereham,

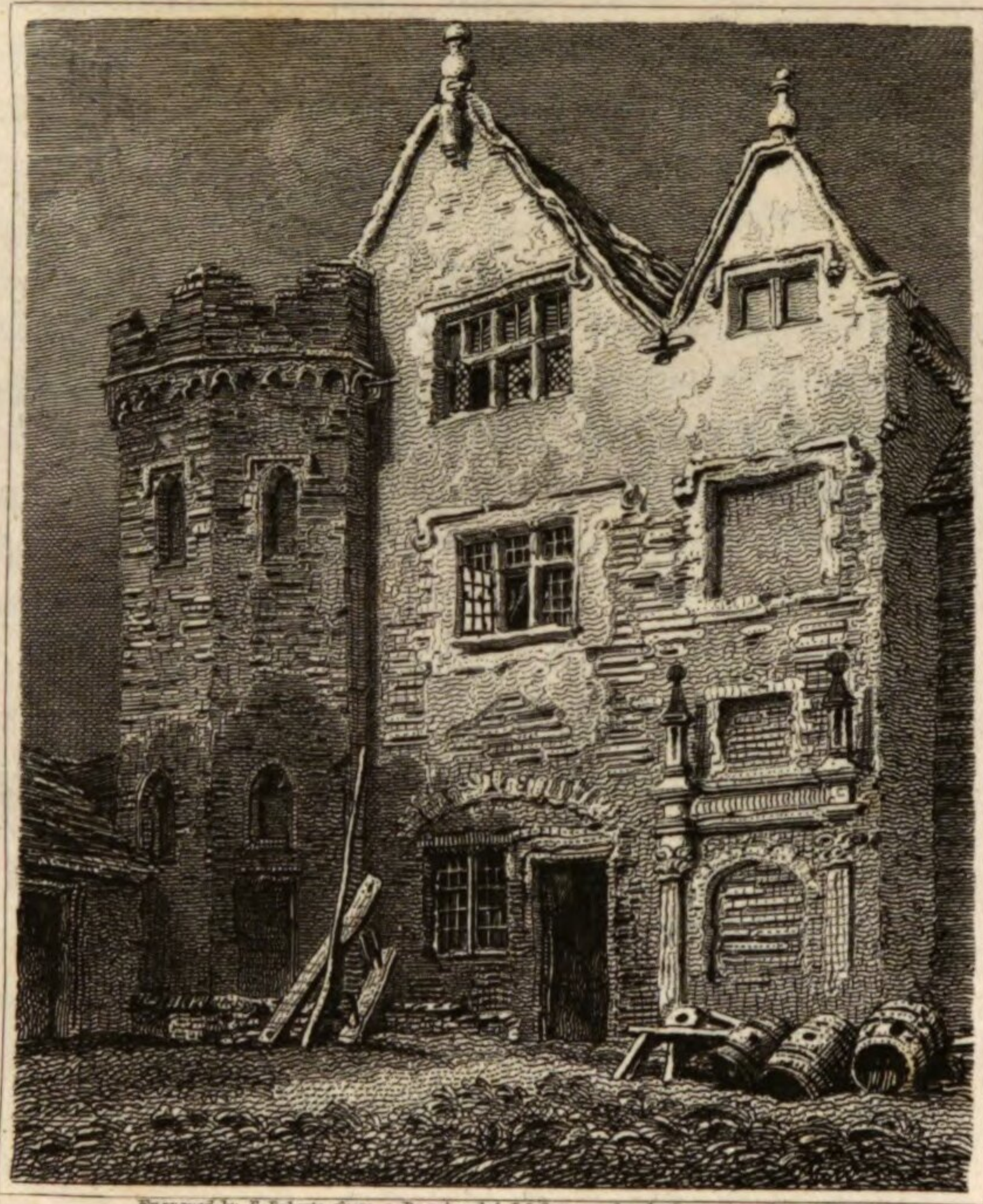
and proceed to notice some few remaining places before concluding our present excursion.

BEXWELL is nearly contiguous to West Dereham. In the church we again meet with a round tower, and upon that an octangular one, the upper part embattled: there is only one bell, and not any monuments or inscriptions of particular note.

Passing Crimplesham, which has nothing particular to merit attention, we arrive at

STRADSET. The interior of the church windows has been highly decorated, most probably in honour of the Lords Bardolf. In the east window are the arms of the see of Ely, of the East Angles, and Bury Abbey, with those of Dereham Abbey. In the north window is a serpent twisting itself about the feet of a dove, and over it *Ut serpens, ut columba*. This church, in the beginning of Henry III.'s reign, was given to the abbey of West Dereham by Sir Osbert de Stradset. Stradset Hall is the seat of T. P. Bagge, esq.

FINCHAM lies east of Stradset. Talbots Hall here was a very considerable manor. Fincham Hall was also a great lordship, held by a family that gave name to it, under Earl Warren. The church of Fincham St. Martin's is a large regular structure of flint and boulder, consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, and a chancel, all leaded. At the west end of the nave is a lofty square tower of the same materials, with quoins and battlements of freestone, neatly wrought. The Finchams being the founders or benefactors to this pile, their arms appear on the buttresses and the battlements. The roof, of oak, is supported by principals, on the heads of which are angels and monks, but with heads like dæmons and furies. The vault of this nave is supported by five arches on each side, with an equal number of windows over them. At the west end of the nave is a stonefont, with a quadrangular basin about a yard square. The figures



Engraved by E. Roberts, from a Drawing by J.S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

North Front of
FINCHAM HALL.
NORFOLK.

Pub^d Mar. 2, 1828, by Longman & Co Paternoster Row.

of three men, in a very rude and antique dress, appear on the south side, under three arches of stone. On the west side is something like a crib or manger with a child in it: over this two heads like oxen, but broken; and above these something like a star, indicative of the wise men and their offerings. There are also two more figures on this square, one much broken, the other like an ancient Druid. On the north side is that of a bishop in his robes, with his mitre and crosier, probably representing St. Augustine, the apostle of the English. On the east side are Adam and Eve, and another figure, which is concealed by the font's joining to a pillar. This Gothic font, with its rude arches, figures, &c., in basso relievo, is certainly very ancient. On the pavement are the remains of the effigies of several men and women in their shrouds. In the east window are the representation of some abbess or saint, Audrey, with her crosier staff, and crowned. In the east window is the figure of St. John in a blue gown, and St. James in a green one, and a scallop shell in his hand. The south side of the chancel is embattled, and coped with freestone, and adorned with pinnacles. On the wall is a niche for a statue, and there also seems to have been a place for an anchoret.

The church of Fincham St. Michael is built of flint and boulder, and consists only of a nave, with a chancel, covered with lead. The tower is large and square, embattled, with quoins and copings of freestone, and a pinnacle at each corner. The upper part of the wall of the chancel, on the north side, is of brick, embattled, and coped with freestone: there is also a little porch into the chancel, with the arms of the Bardolfs in the centre of the arch.

SHOULDHAM lies to the north-west. About a mile south-east of this place, mention has been made of an antique hall, the south part of which was in this parish, and the north part in that of Marham. This was

the ancient seat of the old family of De Shouldham, lords of this manor. Sir William de Shouldham lived in the thirty-fourth of Henry III. John Shouldham was one of those gentlemen of ancient coat armour who were returned to serve King Henry V. in his wars. Shouldham Priory was founded by Jeffrey Fitz Piers, Earl of Essex, and dedicated to the Holy Cross and the Blessed Virgin, for a prior, canons, and nuns, of the order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham. The church remaining at Shouldham is dedicated to All Saints. St. Margaret's was standing in 1512; but is supposed to have decayed soon after the Dissolution. This church, in the reign of King John, was appropriated to the priory and convent, who received all the tithes, great and small.

Fodderton, or Foston, Tottenhill, and Shouldham Thorp, have nothing to detain us.

WORMEGAY lies at the northern extremity of Clackclose hundred. This place was once in some repute for its priory, founded by William de Warren, in the reign of Richard I., for canons of the order of St. Augustin, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the Holy Cross, and St. John the Evangelist. This priory stood in a close opposite the castle of Wormegay, the priory being on the north and the castle on the south side of the town: this being the head of the barony, the Bardolfs frequently resided here. The church stands nearly a mile east of the present village, in the fields; it is an ancient single pile of car-stone, flint, &c., the chancel being divided from the nave by a screen of wood.

WATLINGTON, about two miles west from Wormegay, gave name to an ancient family, from whom the lordship came to William Steward, by the marriage of Joan, the sister of John de Watlington. The church has been highly decorated; all the windows, particularly the east window, have been finely illuminated;

parrots and bunches of grapes are still to be seen. At the west end of the nave is an old curious stone font; on the basin and pedestal are several niches, in which the images of the apostles have been placed. The wooden cover to this has a pelican upon the summit. The roof of the nave is supported by four octangular pillars, on each side, forming eight arches, with the same number of windows over them. The chancel is of the same materials with the church, and is separated from the nave by a screen. The lowest window on the north side is of great antiquity, being prior to the ninth of Edward III. Here are a number of monuments and inscriptions.

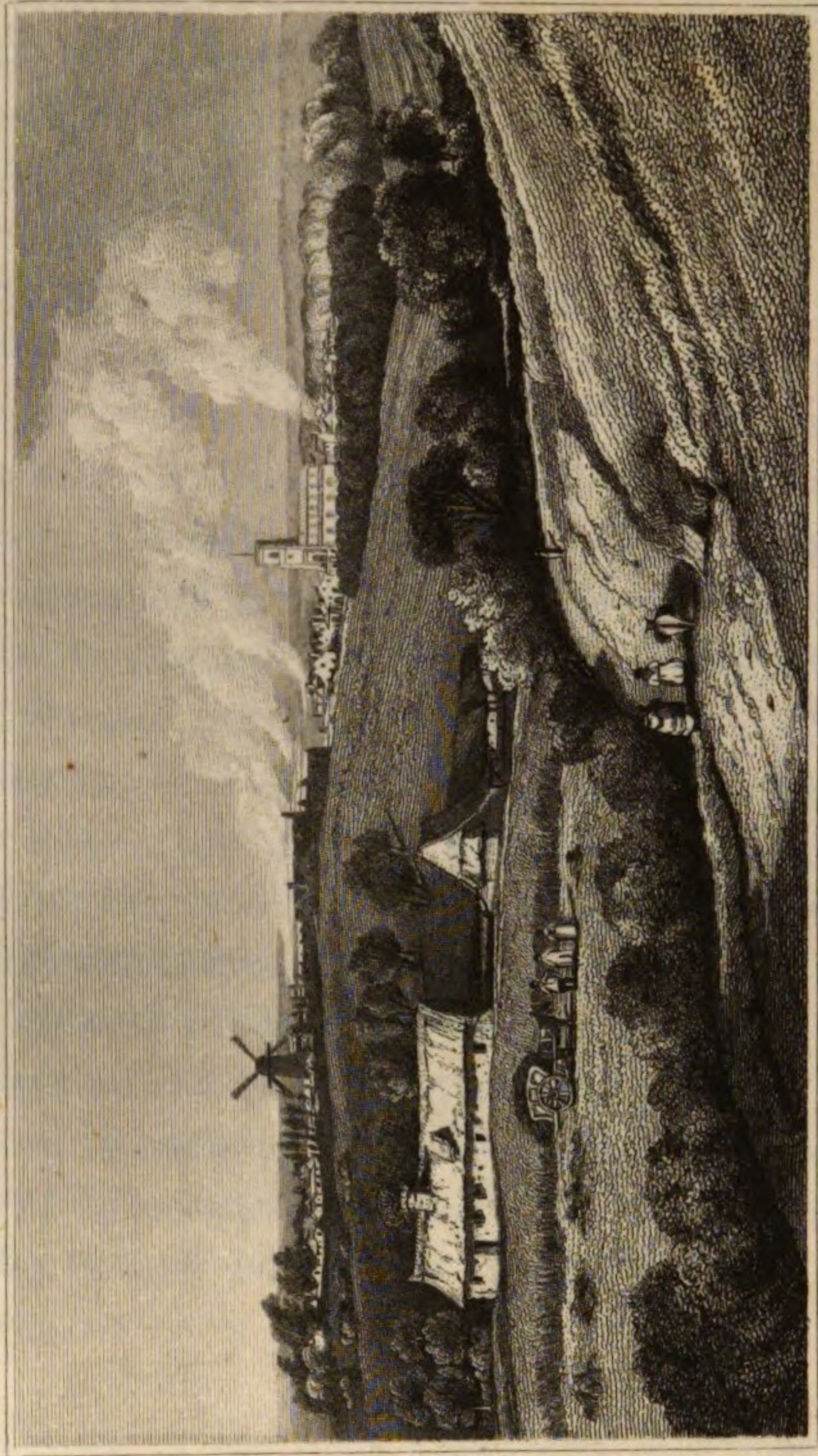
Turning southward towards Downham, we pass STOW, or STOW BARDOLPH. Here is Stow Hall, a stately manor-house, with pleasure-grounds and a park. Near a bridge, about two miles from the town, over the river Ouse, a fair is kept annually, on Saturday before Trinity Sunday, for horses and cows. The church here is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and consists of a nave and chancel, and a broad but low square tower, built of car and ragstone, with buttresses of brick, containing five large bells. On the north of the chancel is a chapel or burial-place for the family of Hare, with their arms at the west end. Somewhat south of the church, an ancient building of flint and brick, standing east and west, is supposed to have been a hermitage. It was afterwards converted into a small farm-house, and belonged to Sir Thomas Hare.

We now pass Wimbotsham, an inconsiderable village, and conclude our present excursion at Downham Market.

DOWNHAM MARKET is situated on a hill to the east of the river Ouse, over which and the fens it has an extensive prospect. Spelman says, the market here was of such antiquity, that he finds it confirmed by Edward the Confessor. The pavement of this town

has been much improved of late, and the weekly market is well supplied with fish and wild-fowl from the fens. Downham has been long celebrated for its butter-market, which used to be kept near the bridge every Monday. This being sent to London by way of Cambridge, obtained the name of Cambridge butter; but of late years this article has found the best market at Swaffham. The principal manor here, with the whole hundred, were given by King Edgar to Ramsey abbey, in Huntingdonshire: the abbot was authorized by King John to hold a fair at this place. By King Henry III. he was invested with authority to try and execute malefactors at his "gallows of Downham." The church is dedicated to St. Edmund, and consists of a nave, a north and south aisle, built of car or rag-stone, with a low square tower at the west end, embattled with buttresses, quoins, &c., and containing five bells. The vault of the nave is supported by pillars, forming ten arches, being five on each side, of a different turn and workmanship; the roof is of oak, and at the west end is a neat gallery: there is also a shield on each angle of the old octangular font, with two arrows in saltire, and a crown over them, to express the shield of St. Edmund. Contiguous to this structure a priory of Benedictines formerly stood.

Near the foot of the bridge, opposite to Downham, stood an old hermitage, or cell, probably founded by a Lord Bardolph. In 1811 here were 360 houses, and 1771 inhabitants. The fairs are held on February 3, May 8, and November 13: the market is on Saturdays.



Engraved by E. Roberts from a Drawing by J. Stetman for the Excursions through Norfolk

LODDON, NORFOLK.

Pub. & Dec. 1848, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

EXCURSION VIII.

From Norwich through Eaton, Cringleford, Hethersett, Wymondham, Attleburgh, and Larlingford, to Thetford.

BEFORE commencing our present Excursion, we shall proceed by the high road, leading directly from Norwich to Loddon, having omitted to notice that town when in its vicinity.

LODDON. This little market-town stands on the banks of a small stream that rises near Howe, in Clavering, and falls into the Yare at Hardley Cross: it is about twelve miles from Norwich. In the reign of Edward I. the manor of Loddon formed part of the large estates belonging to the Bigod family. In the time of Henry VII. it belonged to Sir James Hobart, lord chief justice of the court of Common Pleas. He lived at Hales Hall, commonly called Loddon Hall, from its being in that parish. He was at the whole expense of erecting the church at Loddon, a handsome stone building, with a fine tower. In the chancel, on a marble altar tomb, are several brass plates with the arms and two mutilated figures of Henry Hobart, esq., and others of the family. James Hobart had the honour of knighthood conferred on him by King Henry VII. Three distinguished families in Norfolk have descended from this Sir James; in the second line was his grandson, Sir Henry Hobart, attorney-general to James I., and ancestor of the Earls of Buckinghamshire. The market is on Fridays; the number of houses, 126; the inhabitants, 937; and here are two annual fairs.

CRINGLEFORD, the first place passed on commencing this Excursion, derives its name from the shingle, or gravelly ford, the stone bridge over which divides the liberties of Norwich from those of Norfolk. The church contains nothing remarkable. In the bounds of this parish there was formerly a free chapel, dedicated to St. Ethelred, commonly called St. Albert's chapel. The resort of pilgrims to this chapel was formerly very great, but for what particular purpose at present does not appear.

INTWOOD is about three miles from Norwich, and belonged to Earl Ralf at the Conquest; but was given by the Conqueror to Eudo the Sewer. The tower of the church is round at bottom, and octangular at top. Here is an old seat, called Intwood Hall, considerably enlarged by Sir Thomas Gresham, the founder of the Royal Exchange, who entertained here, in 1549, John Dudley, the great Earl of Warwick, on his march against the rebels commanded by Kett. This house affords a curious specimen of the style of building then prevalent. The manor was sold to Henry Hobart, esq., and is the property of the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

MELTON MAGNA. Here were two churches standing very near each other in the same churchyard; that which remains is dedicated to St. Mary, the Virgin. The tower, which was built in 1440, contains three bells. The old church of All Saints was taken down in the twelfth year of Queen Anne, and the two parishes consolidated. Melton Hall is a good house, at a small distance from the churchyard.

HETHERSETT is five miles and a half from Norwich. Here we meet with Cantlowe Hall. Hethersett church contains a number of monumental inscriptions, &c. and in St. Thomas's chapel is the tomb of Catherine, mother to Baron Flowerdew, and wife to John Flowerdew, without inscription.

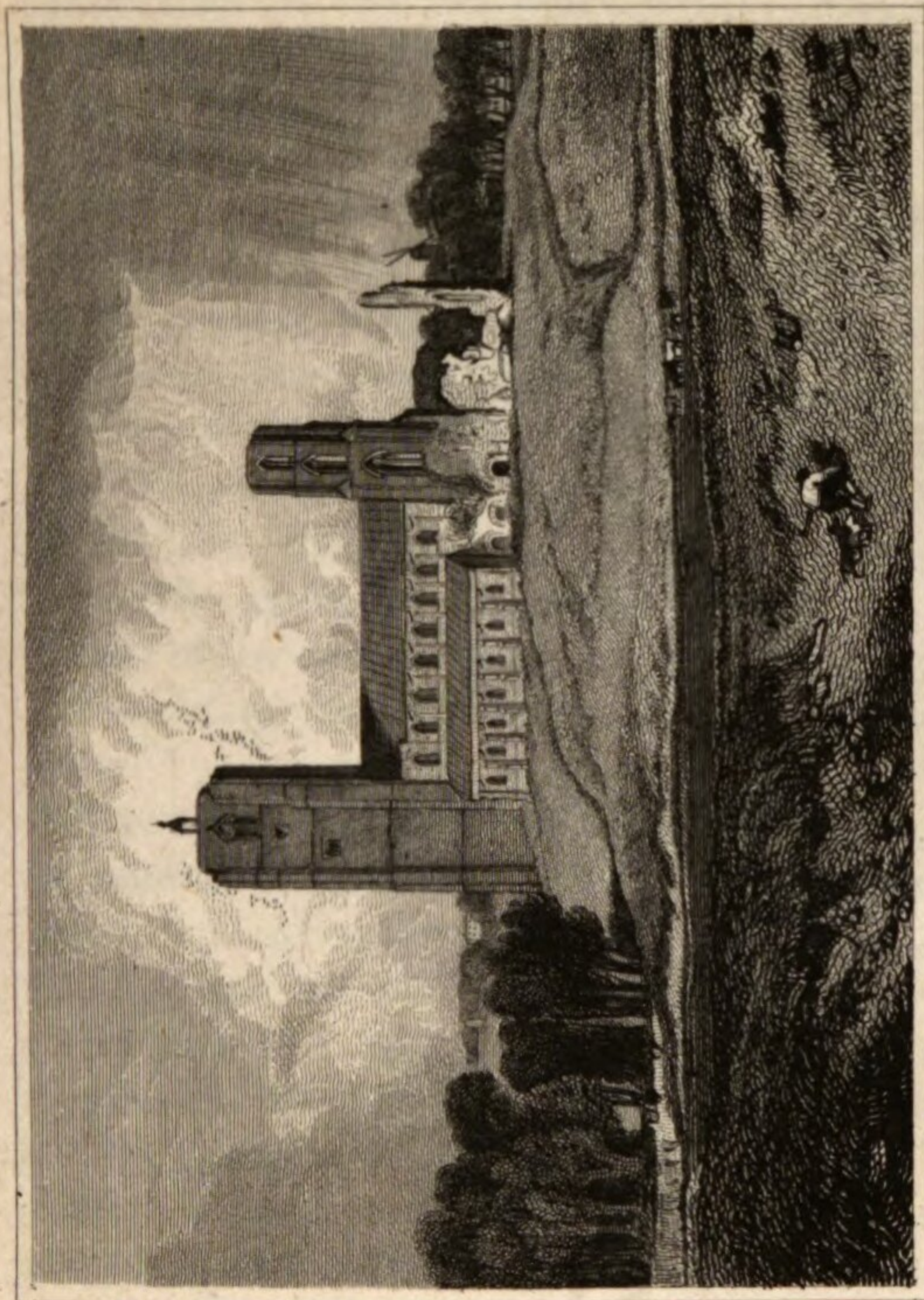
KETERINGHAM is rather more than a mile to our left, and was the property of Robert de Vallibus, or Vaux : after many vicissitudes, in the reign of Henry VII. it came into the possession of the family of the Heveninghams. With the exception of one or two descents, it had twenty-seven knights nearly in regular succession. Thomas Heveningham, esq., who died in 1499, was, with his wife, buried in the chancel of the church here. William Heveningham, esq., sheriff of the county of Norfolk in 1635, was one of the judges who decided the fate of King Charles I.; but being one of the nineteen regicides who surrendered under the proclamation of June 1660, he received the royal pardon. Sir William Heveningham, knighted by Charles II. in 1674, sold the manor, with the fine family mansion, to Edward Atkyns, esq., son and heir of Sir Edward Atkyns, knt., lord chief baron of the Exchequer. *Keteringham Hall*, in the year 1648, was repaired, and the grounds improved by a large plantation of trees. Keteringham church, dedicated to St. Peter, has a low square steeple and five bells; it was rededicated in 1535, and appropriated to the prior of Pentneye, who, as rector, had a house and fifty-two acres of glebe.

WYMONDHAM, nine miles from Norwich, lies on our road, and including all its present hamlets (Stanfield excepted) was one manor belonging to the Conqueror, who gave it to William de Albany, to be held by the service of butler to the kings of England on the day of their coronation, on which account he was called *pincerna regis*. Stanfield Hall manor belonged to Earl Warren in the Conqueror's time, and afterwards to the Bigods. The ancient divisions of the town of Wymondham are as follow : Middleton, or Marksted, Damgate, Chapelgate, Vicar's-street, Town-green, and Cakewick; all of which are in the insoken : the hamlets in the outsoken are, Downham, to the

north ; Stanfield, eastward ; and Silfield, Wattlefield, Spooner Row, Sutton, Norton, and Brawick, on the south-east and south-west. A monastery was erected here in the reign of Henry I., A. D. 1130, by William de Albini. This house, which was amply endowed, appears to have been originally intended as a cell for black monks of the order of St. Augustin. At the time of the dissolution, as no crimes were laid to the charge of the abbot, he had an allowance for life of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The abbey church was a large handsome structure, in the form of a cross, erected about the year 1130, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and Thomas à Becket, and consisting of a choir, naves, north and south aisles, with a tower in the centre, still called the abbey steeple, and another at the west end. The present church consists of a nave with aisles, a large western tower, and another at the intersection of the nave with the transepts. The ancient parts of the building display semicircular arches, with short columns, large piers, &c. apparently parts of the original structure, though the north aisle, porch, and towers, are of a much later style than the nave and south aisle. The large font here is elevated on steps, and ornamented with bold sculpture ; and the church, upon the whole, is an interesting and curious object to an admirer of architectural effect. The founder, who died in 1156, is buried in the choir, and many of the Albinis, Earls of Arundel, and some of the Clifton family, with the Knevets, are buried here.

Wymondham has many manufacturers employed in various branches of weaving, and in making spindles, tops, and other articles of wooden ware. The market is held on Fridays ; the number of houses has been taken at 600, and the inhabitants at about 3000. Fairs are held here on February 13, May 17, and September 7.

This place gave name to the distinguished family of



Engraved by W. Wallis, from a Drawing by J. S. Cronan for the Excavations through Norfolk.

**WYMONDHAM CHURCH.
NORFOLK.**

Pub. & April 2nd, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Wyndham; from whence the Wyndhams of Wiltshire, Somersetshire, and Glamorganshire, have sprung, with those of Felbrigge, Cromer, and Earsham, in this county. William de Wimundham was overseer of the silver mines in Devonshire in the year 1293, and held other offices in the exchequer. He was well skilled in chemistry and metallurgy; and that year he extracted two hundred and seventy pounds of fine silver from the portion of lead-ore which King Edward I. gave as a dower with his daughter Eleanor, on her marriage with the Count de Barr. The succeeding year he procured five hundred and twenty pounds of silver, which was coined in London; and the next year, miners from Derbyshire having been sent to assist in Devonshire, Mr. Wimundham sent seven hundred pounds of silver to the Mint. Sir William Wyndham was sheriff of Norfolk in 1549. The two insurgents, the Ketts, tanners by trade, were natives of this town. Robert, the elder brother, was hanged in chains on the castle at Norwich, and William upon the high steeple of the church here.

Proceeding from this place, on our right, we observe

MORLEY. The church is dedicated to St. Botolph; it consists of a nave and a chancel, with a south porch, a large square tower, &c. The chancel was fitted up and embellished by Sir Thomas Warde, who was instituted rector in 1480; and on the top of the screens, on the chancel side, there is an old drawing of him, with his name over his head. In the middle there is a representation of the parsonage-house, with the word *rectoria* over it. On the north side he is represented in a priest's habit, giving alms to the lame, blind, and poor; and on the other side in a shepherd's habit, looking after a flock of sheep. In the east window he stands in a rich vestment, similar to that in which he served at the altar: over it is a shield, which

is now reversed, having on it a sceptre and crosier, and the initials of his name. The chapel of St. Peter stands nearly three quarters of a mile south-west of St. Botolph's, on the road leading to Attleburgh, and was founded by Sir William Bardolph, senior. Part of a large tower at the west end of the chapel still remains. The manor-house and ancient seat of the Sedleys is in St. Peter's, and stands about half a mile westward of that church. The two manors, that of Morley Hall and Cockarels, that existed in the time of the Conqueror, still continue.

GREAT ELLINGHAM lies on the same side of the road. The church here exhibits a number of arms upon the seats and screens in the chancel, with the emblem of St. James; the pilgrim's staff and ring, his bag, pouch, and scallop-shells, which were the badges of the pilgrims that frequently travelled to Compostella, in Spain, where, according to the golden legend, St. James lies buried. The manor-house here is called Ellingham Hall.

On this side the road we also observe the Rocklands.

ROCKLAND ST. PETER'S. The church has a square tower, a nave, a chancel, and a south porch: there is nothing remarkable in the interior. The Rocklands at present offer very little interesting to strangers, though Rockland Toft is said to have been of special note in early times, which is evident from its being the residence of the deans, and having three parishes within its own bounds, and a jurisdiction extending over thirty rectors and vicars. The parishes here are called St. Andrew's, All Saints, and St. Peter's; the two first of which have been consolidated many years since. The church of St. Andrew being suffered to fall into a state of dilapidation, its three bells were stolen out of it, and never heard of afterwards.

We now turn to our left, and rejoin our road at

ATTLEBURGH, OF ATTLEBOROUGH. This ancient town, though now but a small place, was not only a city, but, according to some old writers, the metropolis of the county, founded by Atlinge, a Saxon, and king of that province.

OLD BUCKENHAM. At the time of the Conquest here was a castle on the eastern side of the abbey; the site of the former includes an area of about three acres. The ramparts, still entire, are surrounded by a moat. When this fortress was taken down, the materials were used for building the priory here. The priory, now called the abbey, was founded by William de Albany, Earl of Chichester, who died in 1156, in the reign of Henry II., for black canons of the order of St. Augustine. Buckenham St. Andrew's Hall is the seat of Lord Petre. The house is not large, but the park is a very ancient inclosure; as the founder of the monastery before mentioned granted to the monks the privilege of cutting wood in his park of Buckenham. The parish church of St. Andrew, in Old Buckenham, was a rectory belonging to the manor till the foundation of the priory to which it was given by the founder. Soon after the dissolution it was desecrated, and then converted into a barn. The chapel of St. Mary the Virgin was founded soon after the castle, by the lords of it, and was also the only place of worship for the burgh of New Buckenham, till the present church was founded. The church of All Saints, in Old Buckenham, is the present parish church. The steeple is octangular, and contains five bells.

NEW BUCKENHAM is said to have arisen out of the decay of Old Buckenham. William de Albini, disliking the site of the old castle, had it taken down, and having erected another castle more to the eastward, and founded his new burgh, it was thence called New Buckenham. This structure, situated on a hill, consisted of a keep, two circular towers, a grand entrance

tower, barbican and embattled walls, the whole surrounded by a moat. Of these, nothing remains but parts of the gateway and keep, all traces of the entrenchments having been obliterated by the plough. William de Albini obtained a licence for his new town to be considered as a burgh, with the privileges of frank pledge, assize of bread and ale, a gallows, a weekly market on Saturdays, and the liberty to hold a mercate court.

The church is dedicated to St. Martin. Over the west door are carved, in freestone, the arms of several noble and distinguished persons who have been interred here, particularly the Knevetts. The present edifice appears to have been built at various times, the nave and chancel being probably the only remaining parts of the first building. The north aisle was built about 1479, out of the contributions of several eminent persons, whose arms still remain in the windows. The south aisle, porch, and tower, were begun soon after by that Sir John Knevet who married the heiress of the Cliftons, and finished by his grandson, Sir William Knevet. The north aisle has a chancel parted off, with handsome carved screens at its east end.

We now turn towards the west, and leaving Eccles Hall, the seat of Dean Miller, esq. on our left, rejoin the road near Harpham.

The church of Harpham consists of a nave, chancel, and south porch, with a square tower, and three bells. A number of arms on the old roof of the chancel were defaced, upon the erection of a new roof. Most of the monumental inscriptions here are in Latin.

Harpham House is the seat of Mrs. Hare.

SNETTERTON. This village, which lies to our right, between Harpham and Larling, had once two parish churches, one dedicated to All Saints, and the other to St. Andrew, the latter of which has scarcely any remains. The present parish church consists of a nave,



Engraved by T. Higham, from a Drawing by J. S. Green, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Remains of the Keep.
NEW BUCKINGHAM CASTLE,
NORFOLK.

Pub. 4 June 1848, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

north aisle, north porch, south porch, and a chancel; the steeple is square, and contains four bells. Snetterton, in the Confessor's time, was two towns: the part in which All Saints church stands bore the present name; but the north part was then called Eshel or Ashby. These two parts afterwards became four manors, viz. Old Hall, New Hall, Can Hall, and Grimes.

LARLING, or LERLINGFORD, is nearly three miles from Snetterton.

EAST HARLING is a small town to our left. The church is a uniform structure, consisting of a nave, two aisles, and a south porch. The tower, which is square, was built by Sir William Chamberlain, as appears from the many blank shields, encircled with the garter, and was finished about 1449; he also rebuilt the greatest part, if not the whole of the church, but the windows were finished by Sir Robert Wingfield, who married his widow. A chapel at the east end of the south aisle is called Herlings chapel, and being the burial-place of that family, Sir Robert Herling, who rebuilt it, lies under an altar-tomb, in an arch in the south wall. The screens between the church and chancel are finely carved and painted, being put up by Sir Robert Herling, whose arms and crest are often carved upon them. Here are a considerable number of monumental inscriptions.

KENNINGHALL, at present a village, was formerly a place of distinction, and by Camden was supposed to have been a seat of the Icenian kings. Old Kenninghall Place, or Palace, built by the great Duke of Norfolk, was very spacious, and resembled a castle. It had an east and west front, had a lodge, and was situated in a large park, containing 700 acres, and well stocked with deer. The north side was well fenced with woods and groves; but on the duke's attainder it was seized by the king, and settled on the then Lady Mary. Hither she removed from Hunsdon

in Hertfordshire, and hither she was resorted to by several lords and knights of this county, Sir John Shelton, Sir Henry Bedingfield, Sir Henry Jerningham, and others. It was afterwards in Queen Elizabeth's hands, who was often here. She ordered her tenant, Chapman, who lived in Fersfield Lodge, to open the way now called Chapman's Entry, through her own ground, the old way being so narrow that the queen could not conveniently pass through it. Being since disused, it is nevertheless called Queen Bess's Lane. When this mansion was pulled down, upwards of a century since, the materials were sold for a mere trifle, and being used in the building of a great number of walls, chimneys, &c. the arms of the Mowbrays and Arundels were to be seen upon the bricks.

The church, situated upon a hill, has a large square tower at the west end, with the crest of the Dukes of Norfolk upon the buttresses.

From Kenninghall, a good road leads south-westward to Garboldesham.

Quiddenham Hall, the seat of the last male branch of the Holland family in Norfolk, was sold by a sister of Sir William Holland, bart. to Mr. Bristol, a Portuguese merchant, of whom it was purchased, with the manor, by the late Earl of Albemarle, who greatly improved the park and grounds by numerous plantations.

Riddlesworth Hall is the seat of — Thornhill, esq.

WEST HARLING. West Harling Hall is the seat of — Ayton, esq.

CROXTON. Upon a hill on one side of this village there are some trees, which, being seen many miles in this open country, have been called Croxton High trees.

KILVERSTONE lies on the opposite side of the road.

Kilverstone Hall is the seat of J. Wright, Esq.

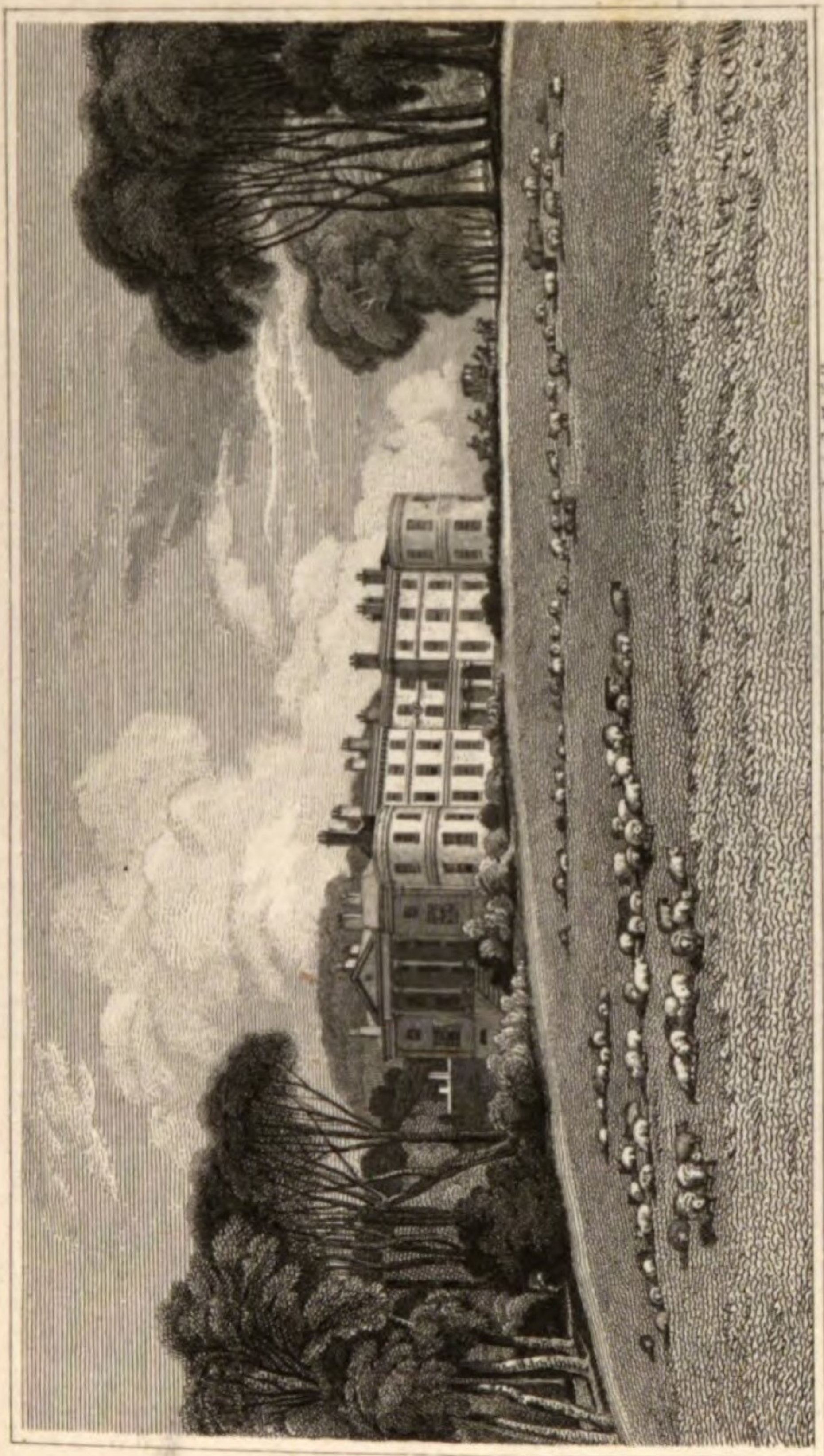
Snarehill Lodge, between Brettenham and Rushford, is the seat of Henry Redhead, Esq. Near this are



Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by J. S. Colman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

South Entrance to
KENNINGHALL CHURCH,
NORFOLK.

Published July 1858, by Longman and Co. Paternoster Row.

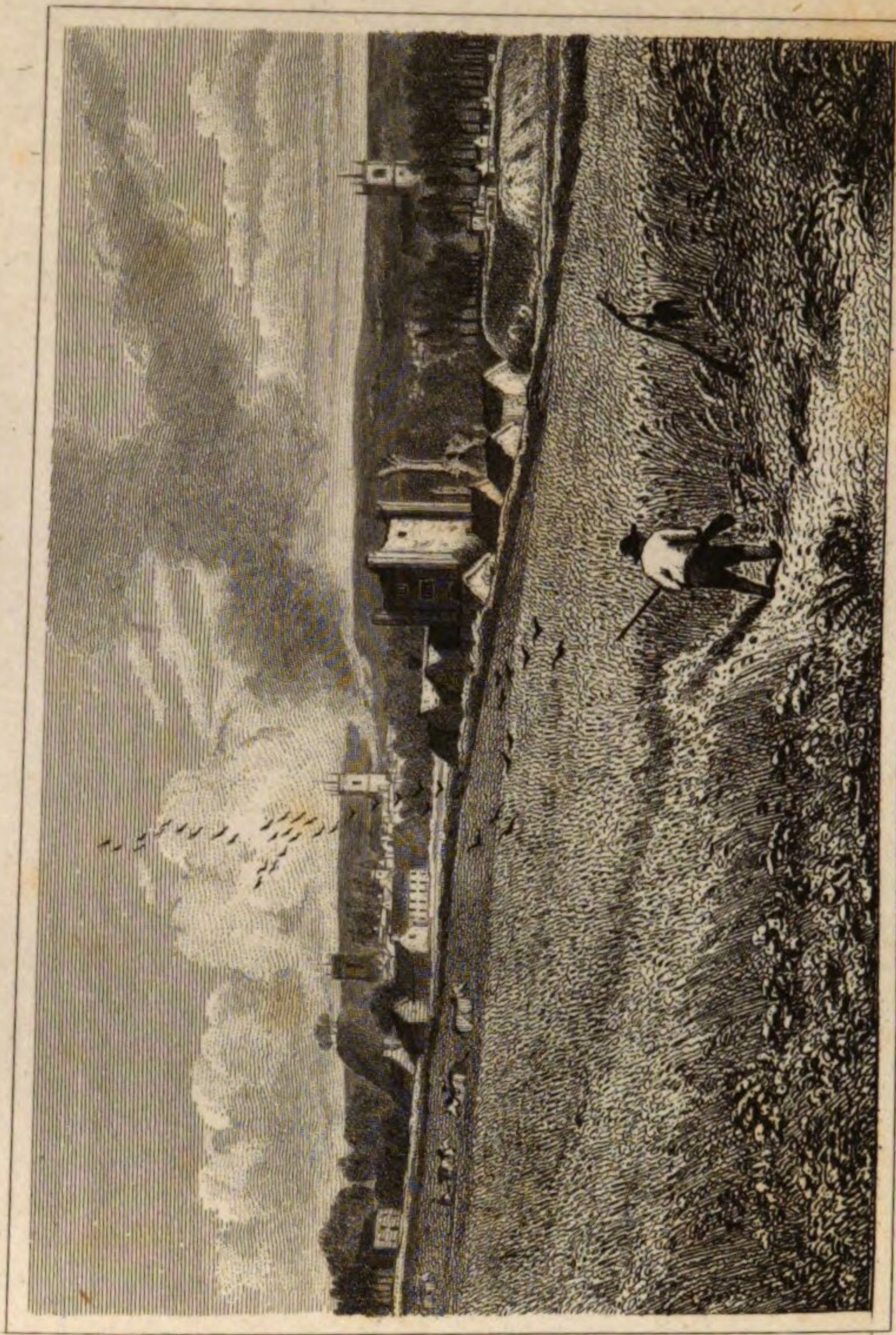


Engraved by J. C. Warrell from a drawing by J. J. Gorman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

QUIDDEPHEN HALL.
The Seat of the Earl of Albemarle.

NORFOLK.

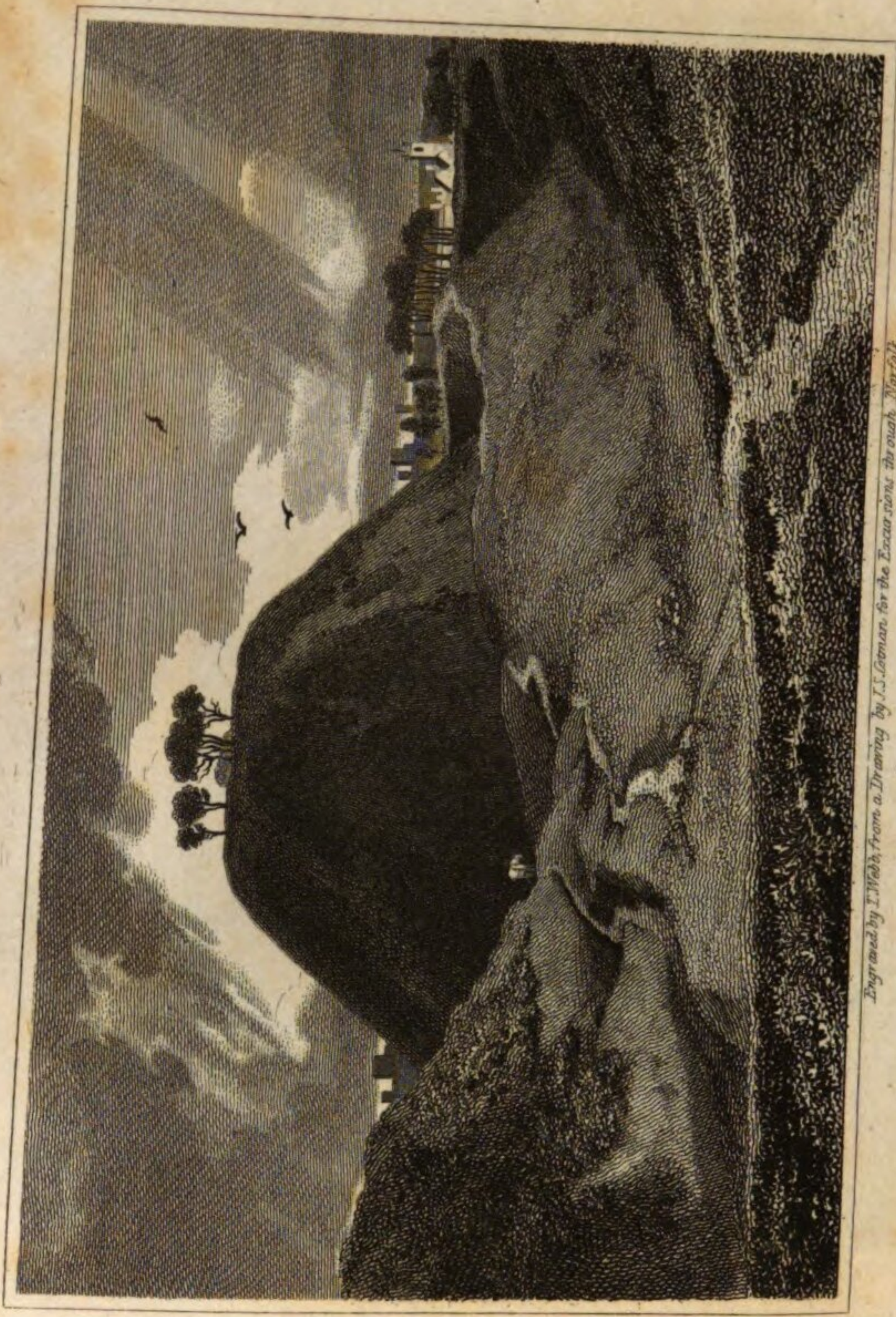
Pub. 2 April 1818 by Longman & Co. Pall-mall Row.



Engraved by E. Roberts, from a Drawing by J.S. Groom, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

North West View of
THETFORD,
NORFOLK.

Pub.^d April 1846 by Longman & Co Paternoster Row.



Engraved by T. Webb from a Drawing by J. S. Leaman, for the Excursion through Norfolk.

**THE MOUNT, TELFORD,
NORFOLK.**

Pub. & Sold by Longman, & Co. Paternoster Row.

twelve large barrows, known by the name of the Seven Hills. Here it is understood a dreadful battle was fought between King Edmund and Ingwar the Danish chieftain, in the year 870.

RUSHFORD or RUSHWORTH. Shadwell Lodge is the seat of Sir Robert Buxton, bart.

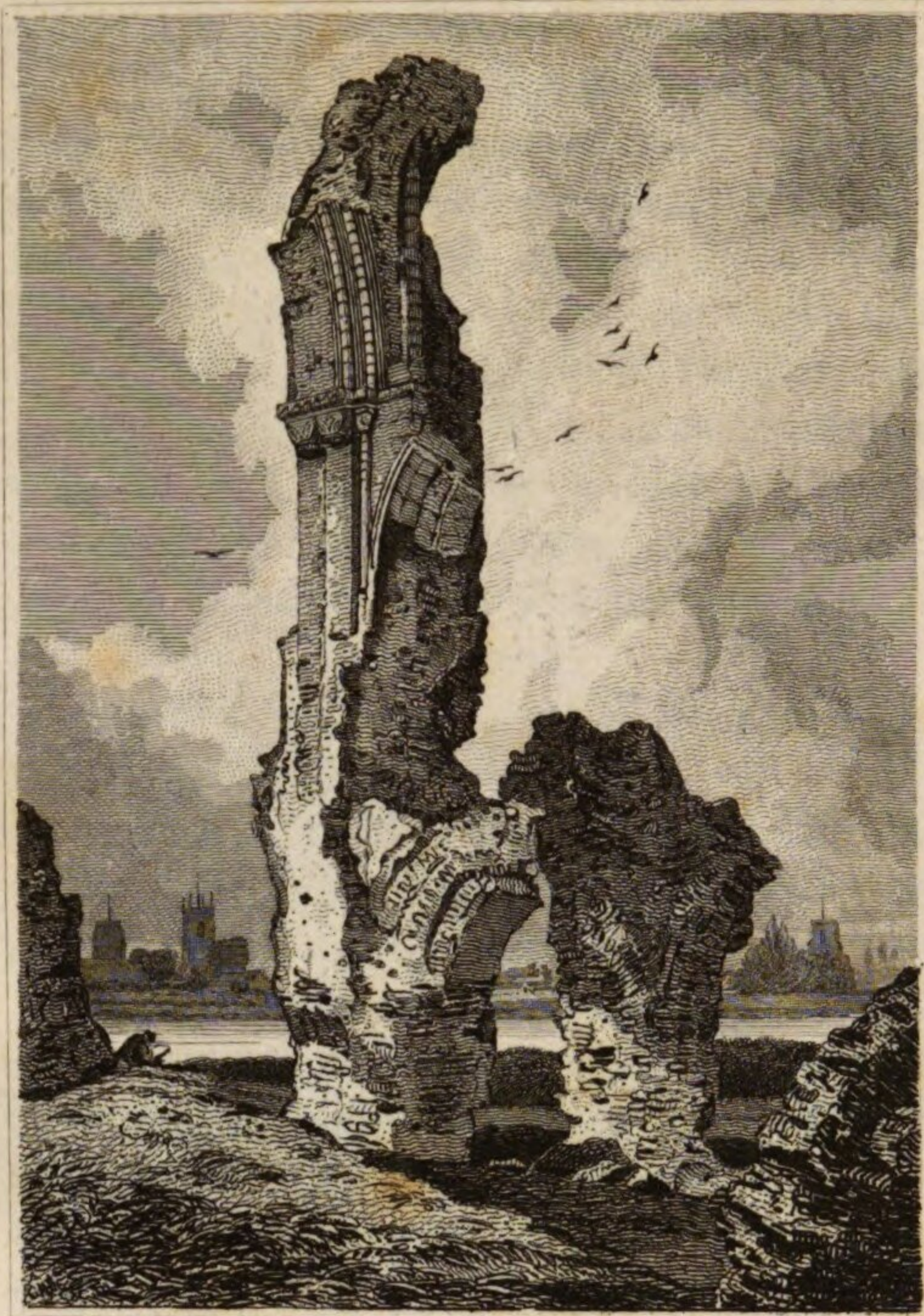
From this place a good road leads us to Thetford.

THETFORD. This celebrated ancient town stands on two navigable rivers, the Ouse and the Thet, and is generally supposed to have arisen from the ruins of the Roman Sitomagus. Dr. Gale and others, though with very little authority on their side, place that city at Woolpit in Suffolk. Here are many vestiges of antiquity, particularly a large mount called Castle Hill, thrown up to a great height, and fortified by a double rampart. According to tradition, Thetford had walls, though there is no appearance of their remains. The slope or ramp of this mount is extremely steep, forming an angle with the plane of the horizon of more than forty degrees, and yet no traces remain of any path or steps for the purpose of carrying up machines, or any weighty ammunition. The chief entrance seems to have been on the north side, where, in the second or inner rampart, a passage is so formed that troops attempting to enter must have presented their flanks to a double line of the garrison looking down upon them. The remaining ramparts are about 20 feet high, and the fosse or ditch from 60 to 70 feet wide. The slope or inclination of each vallum exhibits a wide crest against the fosse. Thetford is on all hands agreed to have been once the seat of the East Anglian kings; and being the metropolis of the Heptarchy which lay open to the north of Europe, it was continually exposed to the ravages of the Danes, by whom it was several times burnt; the last time was in the year 1099.

After Canute became king, Thetford began to recover, and the town rose from its ashes like a phoenix, and was so prosperous in the reign of Edward the Confessor, that there were nine hundred and forty-seven burgesses; but in the Conqueror's time these were reduced to seven hundred and twenty, and the number of uninhabited houses were two hundred and twenty-four. The chief magistrate here was then styled consul. Here was also a bishop's see, till Herbert de Losinga removed it to Norwich in the reign of William Rufus, where it has continued ever since. During the reign of Henry VIII. Thetford was a place of such consequence as to be made a suffragan see to Norwich, but it continued so only during that reign. Thetford had a mint formerly, and has been honoured with the presence of many of our sovereigns, particularly Henry I. and Henry II.

Several charters granted by Henry I. bear date at Thetford. When the manor fell with the Duchy of Lancaster, of which it was a parcel, to the crown, the ancient seat of the Earls of Warren became the royal palace. This was rebuilt in the time of Queen Elizabeth, who occasionally resided here. King James I. made it one of his hunting seats, but being disgusted with the resentment of a farmer over whose lands the king and his retinue had been hunting, this house was given by the king to Sir Philip Wodehouse; but it has been since rebuilt, and though the property of a private gentleman, is still called the king's house.

In the reign of Edward III. here were twenty churches and six hospitals, besides a number of religious houses. Thetford, in its most flourishing state, had eight monasteries; and a society of religious existed in the church of St. Mary as early as the reign of Edward the Confessor, if not before. In 1075, Arfast, bishop of the East Angles, removed his epis-



Engraved by J. Greig, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Part of
THE ABBEY, THETFORD,
NORFOLK.

Pub^d Apr. 1, 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. Craig from a Drawing by J. S. Colman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

South View of
THETFORD ABBEY GATE.
NORFOLK.

Pub. & May 1. 1812. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

copal seat from North Elmham to this place; but it did not remain here above twenty years before it was translated to Norwich.

About the year 1104 a monastery was built here by Roger Bigod for Cluniac monks, and made subservient to the abbey of Cluny, in Normandy; but the place being found inconvenient, they began a more stately building without the town, on the other side of the river. This house enjoyed peculiar privileges, because, whilst others were subject to the seizure of their revenues in case of a war breaking out between England and France, this was excepted: as the religious persons of this monastery were naturalized in the 50th year of Edward III. they were reputed natives, and of course treated as other subjects of the realm.

The ancient gateway, constructed of freestone and black flint, with parts of the church, still remain. This monastery had been the burial-place of several of the Earls of Norfolk, and also contained numerous monuments of the Bigods, Mowbrays, and Howards. Many of the mortuary remains, at the time of the dissolution, were removed to Framlingham.

Dr. Caius, in his History of Cambridge, conjectures that the school which Sigebert, King of East Anglia, set up after his return from France, and which is mentioned by Bede, was erected here. That a seminary for learned and religious instruction was early established in the metropolis of the East Anglian dominions is highly probable, but no notice of this kind occurs prior to the year 1329, when John de Mordon was collated to the mastership of this school.

The nunnery was founded by Uvius, the first abbot of St. Edmund's Bury, in the reign of Canute, in remembrance of the persons who fell at Snareshill, near the town, in the sanguinary conflict between King Edmund's army and the Danish forces under Ingwar and Ubba. This being considered as a cell

to Bury Abbey, a few monks were afterwards placed here; but these being reduced in number, by the request of the Abbot of Bury, they resigned in the year 1176, and he placed a convent of nuns in their room, who had previously resided at Lynn. At the dissolution, the site being granted to Sir Richard Fulmerston, he made it his residence. The house was afterwards let to a farmer, and subsequently a great part of it was taken down, a new farm-house built of the materials, and the conventual church turned into a barn. Some of the walls with buttresses, the windows, &c. still remain.

John of Gaunt was the founder of St. Austin's Friary here, in the year 1387, for friars mendicants of the Augustin order. The ground on which this house stood is still called the Friars Close. The monastery of St. Sepulchre was founded by William, Earl of Warren and Surrey, in the year 1109, who embarking on a crusade to the Holy Land, recommended his new foundation to the care of his brother *palmers*; here it may be proper to observe, that *palmers* were pilgrims or soldiers who had served in these crusades, and were so called because they usually brought home from Palestine a palm branch, which they wore as a badge of distinction. The site of this monastery is called Canons, and part of the conventual church has been converted into a barn. The gate of the porter's lodge, and some other vestiges, still remain.

The Domus Dei, or House of God, stood at the corner of Canon's Close, and was founded by William Rufus, or the Earl of Warren, in his reign. Among the regulations, we find that the Prior of Thetford was to find two chaplains to pray for the soul of the founder, and to furnish lodging and food during the space of forty weeks annually, for three poor men, who were to receive every night a loaf of rye bread, equal in weight to two and fifty shillings sterling, and one her-

ring; or, in case of a scarcity of herrings, then two eggs in lieu of each herring: three beds were likewise to be provided, and water for washing the feet of pilgrims.

St. Peter's, commonly called the black church, from its being constructed chiefly of flint, consists of a chancel, nave, two aisles, and a tower. The latter was rebuilt in 1789, and furnished with eight new bells, when a great part of the church was also repaired and beautified. The battlements on the south side, and the buttresses, are decorated with allusive ornaments, and large letters inlaid in the flint work.

St. Cuthbert's church stands near the cross of this name, where formerly the grass market was kept. The present building consists of a nave and chancel, a south aisle, south porch, and south chapel. The square tower contains five small bells. A great many stones in this church and St. Cuthbert's chapel have been deprived of their brasses.

The ruins of ecclesiastical and other buildings strongly remind the visitor of the ancient splendor of this place. It had at one period twenty churches and eight monasteries, besides other religious and charitable foundations, in consequence of which it obtained the epithets of *Hierapolis et Monachopolis*. But of these the names only of some remain; and of others a few dilapidated walls serve to mark their sites. Of the twenty churches, only three are preserved—St. Peter's and St. Cuthbert's, on the Norfolk side of the river; and St. Mary the Less, in the county of Suffolk.

Thetford, though a very ancient burgh, is comparatively a modern corporation. Before it became a free burgh, the inhabitants were frequently very much incommoded by the oppressions of the officers appointed by the crown. In the year 1573, Queen Elizabeth granted a charter, by which a mayor, ten aldermen, and twenty common-councilmen, a recorder, town-

clerk, sword-bearer, and two serjeants at mace, constitute the corporation. The mayor, during his mayoralty, is clerk of the market, and the following year officiates as coroner. The corporation, from that period, has also sent two burgesses to parliament. This charter was surrendered to the crown, in the thirty-fourth of Charles II., and a very imperfect one obtained in its place; but in 1692, an order was procured from the Court of Chancery for taking off the file, cancelling the surrender, and procuring a transcript of the charter granted in the reign of Elizabeth, by which the town has since been governed. In the reign of Charles II. an act of parliament was obtained to make the river navigable from Lynn to Thetford, the navigation previously having extended no further than to a place called Whitehouse, near Brandon Ferry.

A new bridge is among the more recent improvements at Thetford; the principal street was also paved, and several handsome houses erected. A new market-cross has also been built, covered with cast iron, a portico, and a handsome palisade in front. Here is a county gaol, a bridewell, and a workhouse. The Lent assizes for Norfolk are held at the guildhall. The old guildhall, or council-house, being in a dilapidated condition, Sir Joseph Williamson, knt. one of the principal secretaries of state to King Charles II., erected the present council-chamber at his own expense, and the apartment for the juries.

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Hockering church has a fine square tower, with balustrades at the corners.

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The monument to the memory of Lady Heydon, in Saxlingham church, has been taken down some time since.

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